

## FELICIANA DEMOCRAT.

EDITED BY A SPECIAL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE.

CLINTON, LA.

Saturday Morning, December 29, 1855

We again call upon all persons indebted to us for subscription, advertising and job work, to make speedy payment.

N. B. Yearly advertisements are past due.

## KNOW NOTHING FRUITS.

What has know nothingism done for this country but injury? How will it ever atone for the mischief, and folly it has committed under the plea of purifying the ballot box? In what way will it blot out the stains that have marked its career from the day it first made its advent into this country down to the present time? No lapse of time, or change of circumstances can ever wipe away the odium that justly attaches to the character of the know nothing party for the last two years, in consequence of the many atrocities, and crimes, that have been committed by those who profess to be followers of "Sam." The memory of man will never cease to forget, or his reason to condemn these things, as wrong, in principle, and dangerous and destructive in practice. This know nothing party has done not a single thing to command it to the confidence and support of the American people, but on the contrary very much to excite their fears, and receive their just condemnation.

In their war against foreigners, they have not only created jealousies, and heart burnings in the breast of our naturalized citizens, but it has driven many to leave the country, in disgust, and seek a home and protection in other lands. It has, to a considerable extent, stopped the tide of emigration to this country, and turned it into new channels, as the history of the past year most clearly demonstrates.—Canada and Australia are now reaping the benefit of know nothing folly and proscription, revealed against foreigners, and Catholics for no higher consideration than party predominance. It has succeeded in raising the spirit of persecution for opinion's sake, which no subsequent efforts, it can make to put it down will ever avail. The sacred mandates of the Bible have been disregarded; the requirements of the law, the teachings and examples of our revolutionary sires, and the holiest provisions of our federal constitution have alike been trampled under foot, by those who claim to be entitled to the exclusive appellation of "Americans."

Persecution and intolerance our forefathers wisely and generously set their seal against in their provisions of the admirable constitution under which we exist as a nation. These worthies had studied the history of other nations, and had seen, and understood the baneful influence which always attended any attempt to govern the human mind, with regard to its worship of the creator, and sought in the most effectual way to fix forever, a barrier, against such attempts on our part, by providing that no religious test should ever be required as a qualification for office or other public trust under the government of the United States, and by providing further that no establishment of religion should ever be made by law in this nation.

These noble lessons of wisdom, and justice won by the valor, consecrated by the blood, and established by the choice of the noblest and best of American patriots, heroes and sages, have been set at naught by men, who under the cry of "Americans to rule America," are endangering the citadel of liberty, itself.—Political and religious freedom are the main pillars of our constitutional edifice. Strike these down, and there will be nothing left worth contending for. The superstructure must fall. Know nothingism has made the attempt, but thanks to the untrifled democracy throughout the Union, the blow has been parried.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—There were no ballots taken in the House to-day. A resolution was adopted confining the members to ten minute speeches.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The senate adjourned till Thursday. The house rejected a resolution for an election by plurality. A proposition to exclude debate till a speaker was elected, was laid on the table. Ballot, Banks, 101; Richardson, 73; Fuller, 37, adjourned till Wednesday.

CONTESTED ELECTION CASE.—The motion for a new trial in case of Bell vs. Hufty, before Judge Robertson of the First District Court, came up for argument yesterday morning.—The motion was argued by Mr. Bradford, in his usual full, perspicuous, and powerful manner, on the part of the plaintiff and by Messrs. Day & Hunt for the defendant. We should be pleased to present an abstract of the argument—especially that of Mr. Bradford, which was very able and instructive; but our space will not admit of it. The motion was disallowed.—*Courier*, Dec. 24.

## ASPECTS OF THE POLITICAL HORIZON.

The people of the south are called upon to be united at the present time, more powerfully than at any other time in our history. The course political events, have assumed at Washington, clearly vindicates that southern men can expect nothing from the know nothing, and republican parties in congress. It is possible that the southern portion of the American or know nothing party may, when they see no other alternative, unite with the democrats to save the union. If they do not Black Republicanism will rule the day, and the legislation of Congress will be shaped, to suit their dark designs and we shall see, the Union shaken to its centre, or it may be, dissolved. And for what? simply to appease the fanatical feelings of those who really do not understand properly the subject of slavery in the south, about which they are ready to destroy even the constitution, and all the blessings which flow from our national union. The evils they complain of do not exist. They are imaginary only, yet they are as intent upon carrying out their plans in relation thereto, as if they did. Can southern men either directly or indirectly whether whigs or know nothings give the least countenance or support to such a consummation.

Southern know nothings must know that their own party north, are unsound on the subject of slavery. They must see by the very course pursued by them in congress, that they are not fit associates for them. Their presses declare that the the Wilnot proviso, must be extended over all new territory, and so declared in their platform before they will agree to act with their southern brethren, in nominating a candidate for president. Will southern men submit to this? We shall not believe it until the the thing is consummated beyond doubt or cavil.

All this juncture in our national affairs all eyes are turned upon the noble attitude of the Democratic party in Congress. They have taken their stand, proclaimed their principles, and nominated their candidate for speaker.—A national man, with national principles, and a record that is as fair as the most fastidious lover of the Union could wish. Without spot or blemish upon his character, Wm. A. Richardson, of Illinois stands as the chosen representative of the democracy of the whole Union, for the third highest office in their gift. In one unbroken phalanx, the national democrats from every section of our yet united country, in congress cast their vote for him. They neither turn to the right nor to the left, but vote right on for the man, whom they have chosen as the honored recipient of their devotion to sound principles, and the preservation of the Union. In thus doing they but reflect the will and political sentiments of the great democratic party which they were selected to represent in the councils of the nation. The members of this party from one end of the union to the other, speak the same language, support the same principles, advocate the same national policy with regard to the power of congress over the subject of slavery, and worship at the same political altar. This is so manifest to the unprejudiced mind, which loves the union, and sees the danger to which it is exposed, that thousands that have heretofore acted against it, are now acting with it, and look upon it as the only party that can save the constitution from desecration, and the union from dissolution. Who would not be proud to belong to such a party.

## EXTRAVAGANCE IN DRESS.

The Philadelphia Ledger, which abounds in sound practical philosophy in its brief and pithy editorials has the following:

A fashionable dry goods dealer advertises a lace scarf, worth fifteen hundred dollars. Another has a bridal dress, for which he asks twelve hundred. Bonnets at two hundred dollars are not unfrequently sold. Cashmeres from three hundred dollars upwards, are seen by dozens in a walk along Broadway. A hundred dollars is quite a common price for a silk gown. In a word, extravagance in dress has reached a height which would have frightened our prudent grandmothers and appalled their husbands. A fashionable lady spends annually on her milliner, mantua maker, and lace dealer, a sum that would have supported an entire household, even in her rank of life, in the days of Mrs. Washington. A thousand dollars a year is considered, we are told, quite a narrow income for such purposes among those pretending to be "in society" in some of our cities. Add to this the expenditure for opera tickets, for a summer trip to the Springs, and for a score of little inevitable *et ceteras*, and the reader gets some idea of the comparatively wanton waste of money, carried on year after year, by thousands, if not tens of thousands, of American women.

And for what end? Do these human butterflies improve their intellect, enlarge their

culture, or elevate their characters by this spendthrift system? On the contrary, they deteriorate all. Do they bestow additional happiness to their husbands and fathers? The very reverse; for to sustain these extravagances, the father or husband, as the case may be, toils late and early, consumes his health, and often is driven into wild speculations that end in utter ruin. Do they win the approval of the other sex? Never was the esteem of any worthy man secured by a costly, reckless style of dress. All that this perilous extravagance effects is to gratify miserable, personal vanity. The fostering of one of the most petty of human vices is the only result of these spendthrift habits. Mrs. Potiphar plumes herself as having outshone her rival in laces, at some grand *soiree*, or in having worn more jewels; and that is the single, barren harvest which she reaps by the expenditure of thousands.—Can the pampering of such vanity benefit her or others? Alas! the women who live for such triumphs as these, whose whole souls are given to diamonds and dress, are little fitted to be wives, or mothers, to be companions for men, or educators of children. When the Roman matrons sunk to a similar condition, Rome began, from that hour to decline.

Fortunately for our country, however, such painted triflers form but a small minority of the women of America. Unfortunately, however, their influence on society is greater than their numbers, for to their extravagance and vanity is united a presumption which asserts for themselves, socially, a superiority over the rest of their countrywomen, and this superiority, so undeserved, is conceded to them, partly because of their claim to it, and partly because of their apparent wealth. They are thus enabled practically to give a tone to society at large, in city circles less ostentatious, in country villages, and even in western farmhouses their extravagance and vanity is copied, still in half the families in the land, females spend upon their dress more than they can afford. With too many, happily we need not say with all, adorning the person takes the place of mental culture. To be showily dressed is often considered of more moment than to be graceful, amiable and intelligent. Where will all this end? If this continues for another generation where will we be?

## GEN. PIERCE ON KNOW NOTHINGISM.

Extract from a private letter to a friend in New Hampshire:

WASHINGTON, December 6, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR:—Accept my warm thanks for your kind letter, dated November 27, but mailed December 2d. In the present state of things, politically I ought not, perhaps, to advise with regard to New Hampshire, and would certainly not presume to dictate, (an inclination to which has so often falsely attributed to me.) But if at home, I would stand upon the old platform, sanctioned not merely by success; and if I could not achieve victory, I would at least struggle to preserve our flag without a stain. I would treat Know-nothingism as the democracy of New Hampshire hitherto treated abolitionism. I would meet it distinctly, as a heresy which shrinks from the light, and is in conflict with the genius of our government, and with the clear provisions of the constitution, a strict construction and sacred maintenance of which I regard not merely as the basis of our political faith, but as the only sure foundation of hope for the final success of this great experiment of man's capacity for self-government. Having contended earnestly for the principles of party; and having regarded its success, without the brave presentation of those principles in the foreground, as of no value, I would not for any purpose, present or prospective, consent to lower the standard of political morality, political honor, or political obligation.

The ascendancy of our party in the approaching election is especially important on many grounds, but a son of the State who would purchase by a departure from our hitherto honorable and consistent course can have but a pitiable title to the limited space of its soil, in which his bones will at last repose. In my judgement, those who find nothing in the history of the democracy of New Hampshire from the war of 1812 to this time to cherish with pride—who cannot regard our principles as sufficiently comprehensive, and our platform as broad enough—should leave in open day, and seek some other organization promising nobler and better results.

You will have read the message before this reaches you, and I hope not without having been able to give it your general approval. Very truly your friend,

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

Hon. James M. Rix, Lancaster, N. H.

GEORGIA.—The following resolution was introduced in the senate of the Georgia Legislature on the 17th inst.:

Resolved, That we have regarded with deep interest the action of the House of Representatives of the United States, and are profoundly gratified with the action of a majority of the members of Congress

from this State, in their firm adherence in support of a Kansas Nebraska member for the Speakership of the House of Representatives. And now earnestly urge our entire delegation in Congress to act in concert in support of some member of the House who is sound on the Kansas-Nebraska question for the office of Speaker.

## THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN CONGRESS.

We publish below the official proceedings of the Democratic members of Congress, held in the House of Representatives at Washington. They give us the most satisfactory assurance that the Democratic party in Congress is a unit upon all the engrossing questions of the day. The resolution which was unanimously adopted, expresses the feeling and sentiment of the National Democracy in favor of the true principles of the Constitution which they are now called upon to meet. It is a declaration of uncompromising hostility to hostility of both the Philadelphia and the Cincinnati "Order," and to Free-soilism, in any and every conceivable shape and form. The resolution was drawn up by a Pennsylvanian, and supported by all the conservative members from the Free States as well as by those from the south. Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, who occupied the most important position, officially and otherwise, as a supporter of the Nebraska bill of the last Congress, was nominated for Speaker, and it appears that he received the full vote of his party North and South. This shows that the Democratic party is still the conservative national party of the country. Such a party may suffer temporary defeat, but its final success is just as certain, as the continuance of the Union itself.

Mark the contrast between the Democratic and the opposition members of Congress in the first step of organization! The Democrats select as their candidate for Speaker, a man whose whole political life has been a constant warfare on the Abolitionists of his section. The opposition members cast more than two-thirds of their votes on Free Soilers and Abolitionists of the most detestable character. Let the South ponder on these facts.

Democratic Congressional Caucus.—At a meeting of the Democratic members of the Thirty-fourth Congress, held in the Hall of the House of Representatives on the evening of the 1st December, 1855, Hon. G. W. Jones, of Tennessee was elected Chairman, and Hon. W. H. English, of Indiana, and Thomas Ruffin, of North Carolina, were appointed Secretaries.

The following resolution, introduced by Hon. J. Glancey Jones, of Pennsylvania, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Democratic members of the House of Representatives, though in a temporary minority in this body, deem this a fit occasion to tender to their fellow citizens of the whole Union, their heartfelt congratulations on the triumph in the recent elections in several of the Northern, Eastern and Western, as well as Southern States, of the principles of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and the doctrines of civil and religious liberty which have been so violently assailed by the secret political order known as the Know Nothing party; and though in a minority, we hold it to be our highest duty to preserve our organization and continue our efforts in maintenance of and defence of those principles and the constitutional rights of every section and every class of citizens against their opponents of every description, whether the so called Republicans, Know Nothings, or Fusionists; and to this end we look with confidence to the support and approbation of all true and good men,—friends of the Constitution and the Union, throughout the country.

The meeting then proceeded to select candidates for the various offices connected with the organization of the House, when the following gentlemen were nominated by acclamation, viz:

For Speaker—Hon. A. W. Richardson, of Illinois.

For Clerk—A. D. Banks, of Virginia.

For Sergeant at Arms—A. J. Glossbrenner, of Pennsylvania.

For Doorkeeper—Z. W. McKnew of Maryland.

For Postmaster—J. M. Johnson, of Virginia.

For Public Printer—Cornelius Wendell of New York.

GEO. W. JONES, Chairman.

W. H. ENGLISH, } Secretaries.  
THOMAS RUFFIN, }

## HON. MR. EVANS.

We copy the following from a late number of the Boston Post.

"Mr. Evans, contestant for the seat in Congress from the eastern district of Texas, has been reported as a know nothing. It seems, however, that he did not avow himself a know nothing in the canvass. On the contrary, in a speech delivered by him in Marshall, he said, 'I am no know nothing. I belong to no party, society, or clique, for secret political objects or purposes. I hold no opinion I would not openly proclaim to the world, and now stand here to day to vindicate.' The dis-

trict gave the democratic anti-know nothing candidate for governor a majority of three thousand votes.

The following paragraph, which we cut from an exchange, is local in its application:

"Among all the accomplishments which our young ladies are expected to acquire, it is to be regretted that the art of conversation is not included. No grace of person or manners can compensate for a lack of this. In youth the conversation of our women is apt to be trifling and insipid, and is too often confined to complaints of health and the scandal of the day. Lively conversation, upon instructive and elevating topics, but little practised, but whenever it is found, it gives a charm to the society of females which nothing else can. It triumphs over deformities and old age, and makes ugliness itself agreeable. Curran, speaking of Madame de Stael, who was by no means handsome, but a splendid conversationalist, said that she had power of talking herself into a beauty. Ladies should think of this. Beauty lies in other things than fine features and cosmetics."

The following, written by Dave Martin, of the Louisiana Democrat, deserves to be read and preserved. It is an emanation from the head and the heart, that would do credit to Washington Irving. Dave has a rough exterior, but the inward man is justly alive to the innocent, the pure, and the beautiful. He has paid a noble tribute to departed worth.

## "LITTLE NANNIE WINN."

Some ten years ago we were sitting by a brisk pine fire in our humble sanctum, of Sunday's eve, when a servant entered, leading a beautiful child of some six or seven summers, quite neatly and jauntily dressed, as is most appropriate for these buds of creation. Our attention was immediately attracted to the lovely creature, holding in her hand a magnificent bouquet, which at that period of the season seemed to be a curiosity indeed. Never had we seen a more perfect gem from Nature's mine than this emanation of a deep mysterious handiwork. The flowers in her tiny hand were reflected upon her fair round cheek and finely formed forehead; her eyes were of that dazzling brilliancy that belongs to healthy childhood, and her movements soft and elastic as a fawn in the springtime of a southern clime.

Blushing, but with the confidence of innocence and truth, the little creature advanced, and presented us with her gift, uttering a few laudatory words, that found their way, with the quickness of the electric fluid, to the chamber of the heart. She thanked us for some lines dedicated to the memory of her father, hastily thrown off in the hurry of the moment, at the solicitation of a worthy friend of the honored deceased, and left us to most pleasurable emotions and reflections, tinged with the rainbow hues of imagination.

It is a principle of our nature, and a redeeming principle, we may say,—to love children; for, considered in any light, they present the only evidence we have of the perfectibility which we are told is reserved for human destiny. They are flowers, shade too circumscribed for the coil of the Serpent of Evil. They are the diamonds of truth that blazon the dark pathway of sin and sorrow, as the stars relieve an inky sky; and we confess to a feeling for them, up to a certain age, which is intense, affording us the most valued pleasure we can obtain in a weary pilgrimage. We would be dead at any time, give up any society for the gratification of converse with a child whose mind was just developing the occult designs of God's decree—so pure, fresh, suggestive and pleasing—that we wonder not at the beautiful admonition of the saviour of man: "Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such are the kingdom of heaven." We know not whether the quotation be correct, for, we say it in sorrow, our knowledge of sacred writings is most limited indeed.

Years passed away and we saw our protegee frequently. She had a mind of rare power, much perception, and that versatility of intellect which we not regard as fortunate in its possessor, although it is attractive and highly prized. She was a healthy, beautiful plant, full of promise. In the whirl of a thousand cares and troubles we partially lost sight of her for a considerable time, and when our attention was again called to our pet, "Little Nannie," we had the mortification of learning, and discovering that the bright intellect of childhood had paled its fires at the command of disease. The insidious worm had entered the ripening fruit upon the tree, and worked its way to the rich core. Her mind once so vivacious and winning, was in the dark gloom of insanity. We turned away from the wreck as the mariner does from his ocean bride, a favorite bark, going down to the coral caverns of the deep, and offered up a prayer in our heart that if it were impossible to reinstate her health—to restore the brightness of the jewel—she might soon be called by the Almighty to join the immaculate creatures who pace the realms by seraphs trod, and constitute the ornaments of Paradise.