

ELECTION OF SENATOR.

THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.—The joint caucus of the Democrats of the two Houses of the Legislature met in the Senate Chamber on Saturday last, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the United States Senate. The candidates balloted for were Messrs. Benjamin, Sandidge, Parham and Gray. The number of votes in caucus that day was 68, of which 24 were for Benjamin, 23 for Sandidge, 21 for Gray and Parham alternately. The session, with the intermission of a short recess, lasted until late in the night, when finding that no result could be arrived at, the caucus adjourned until Monday morning 10 o'clock. It assembled according to adjournment, and continued in session until 4 p. m., and again adjourned to 6 o'clock without making a nomination. Mr. Benjamin received an accession of two members to his vote on Monday, which gave him 26, the other vote remaining as before; until the last ballot before adjournment, when Benjamin stuck let down and the vote of Sandidge ran up to 35, wanting one of a nomination—the friends of Parham and Gray still adhering to their men. The caucus then adjourned to 6 p. m., several of the friends of the lowest candidates having left the caucus before the last vote was announced. The caucus re-assembled and proceeded to another ballot. Benjamin received 26 votes, Sandidge 23 and Gray one. Mr. Benjamin having received a majority of the votes cast, was then declared unanimously to be the choice of the Democratic party of the Legislature for U. S. Senator. The friends of Mr. Gray were not in caucus on the final vote.

While the caucus was still in session, Mr. Pearce called the House to order, and attempted to organize the same. The Clerk refused to call the roll. Pending the discussion upon the Clerk's refusing to call the roll, the members of the caucus entered the House, and the Speaker took the chair. The Senate soon joined the House, and proceeded to the election of a United States Senator.

Benjamin was elected on the first vote, which was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Benjamin, Gray, and Total. Benjamin: 26, Gray: 9, Total: 35. House: 36, 41, 77.

The following is the vote for United States Senator on joint ballot:

Senators.—For J. P. Benjamin—Beard, Cottrell, Duran, Evans, Griffin, Good, Hyams, Moore, Pearce, Phillips, Pollerin, St. Paul, Shadrach, Smart, Simmes, Sterling, Tucker, Taylor, Talbot, Withers, Womack, 21.

For Mr. Gray.—Adams, Buffington, Deloney, Dufres, Heard, Kidd, Laidlaw, Malhot, 8. For Mr. Sandidge.—Chew, Gardere, Loucol, 3. Absent.—H. C. Mouton, Lieut. Governor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Benjamin—Pugli, Allen, Andrews, Armat, Bush, Carnes, Claiborne, Cooke, Cornay, Dickiey, Ditto, Fortson, Guidry, Harper, Hawkins, Haynes, Herring, Hyos, Koars, Knox, Lashbrook, Morgan, Morse, Reeves, Roberts, Sale, Simmons, J. W. Smith, Texada, Thell, Walsh, Whitaker, H. P. Womack, Jessie Womack, Woolley, Wright, 56.

Gray.—Adams, Amacker, Babin, Bannister, Barry, Baird, Beggs, Broussard, Brusie, Clarke, Dugas, Eastman, Flecher, Fox, Fuller, Gastanel, Gray, Holland, Huard, Laville, Lawrason, Leafe, Lumsden, Martin, Newton, Nutter, Patterson, Perrault, Pierce, H. M. Polk, J. J. Polk, Randall, Richardson, Salomon, J. A. Smith, J. W. Taylor, J. G. Taylor, Tregre, Trepagnier, Trudeau, Wade, Wilkinson, 42.

House.—Dreux, Morel, 2. Absent.—Bemis, Gibson, Guilbeau, Harang, Hodges, Landry, Landry, Robinson, 8.

MASS MEETING ON NEW RIVER.

At a Mass Meeting of the citizens, occupants of the Houmas lands, and which was held January 17th, 1858, Romanta Tillotson was unanimously called to the Chair. The Hon. W. R. Boote and Simon P. Elian were chosen Secretaries.

The Meeting having been called to order by the Chairman, and the reading of a letter addressed to Gov. R. C. Wickliffe by Dr. Frederick W. Hart was called for—and after having said the said letter read, it was unanimously Resolved, that the said letter contains a full exposition of our views, endorsed by us, and meets our cordial approbation. The following Preamble and Resolutions were then proposed and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the introduction of this bill and its passage through the Senate of the United States by the Hon. J. P. Benjamin, is a mischievous in its tendencies, a direct charge against his moral integrity, a positive betrayal of the trusts confided to him, and a violation of his oath of office—intended to benefit his colleague John S. Sillidell, and entail the ruin of at least five hundred families in the parishes of Ascension and Iberville.

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in the Legislature, be requested and earnestly urged to oppose the re-election of J. P. Benjamin to the Senate of the United States, to fill the vacancy from this State in that body, on the 4th of March next—on account of this act of unparalleled turpitude, by which it was sought to aggrandize his colleague, servant of the people sworn to guard and preserve their interests, against all assaults, by the ruin of five hundred free white electors in the Parishes of Ascension and Iberville.

Resolved, That a petition be drafted to the Legislature to take such action in this matter as it may properly do to have justice secured to the resident occupants of the Houmas lands; and that a similar petition to Congress be prepared and sent to the Hon. Miles Taylor for presentation to the House of Representatives asking for such legislation as may be necessary to obtain the repeal of that Missouri bill, or of that part of it referring to land claims in the Territory of Orleans introduced into that bill with so much subtlety by J. P. Benjamin.

A motion was then made and seconded that the Chairman of this meeting appoint a delegation of five to proceed to Baton Rouge in charge of the Petition to the Legislature of the State, and to confer with the members in furtherance of the objects contemplated in the above resolutions; whereupon, the Chair appointed Dr. Fred'k W. Hart, Hon. Wm. R. Boote, Eugene Gautran, Simeon Arnold, Bennett.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to its Chairman and Secretaries for their attention and politeness in conducting its business, and that the proceedings be published in the Baton Rouge Advocate, True Delta and Crescent of New Orleans, Coast Journal, Donaldsonville, Gazette & Sentinel, Plaquemine; Washington Union and National Intelligencer.

ROMANTA TILLOTSON, Chairman. Wm. R. Boote, Secretary. E. P. Elian.

FELICIANA DEMOCRAT.

Official Journal of the Parish of East Feliciana. G. W. REESE, EDITOR. OFFICE.—OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE. CLINTON, LA. Saturday Morning, January 29, 1859.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE—SUPREME COURT. ALBERT VOORHIES. ELECTION: MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1858.

GODBY'S LADY'S BOOK.—The February, as is usual with all the numbers of this excellent lady's Magazine is filled with its usual variety of literature, fashions, &c. So popular has become the book, that we notice several of the monthlies devoted to the same purposes, attempting imitation, but in every instance that has come under our observation, they are miserable failures.

ARTHUR'S LADIES' HOME MAGAZINE.—The February number of this valuable monthly, under the editorial control of T. S. Arthur and Miss Virginia Townsend, still improves and stands side by side with the Lady's Book. It is well provided with every thing that the ladies may desire in fashion plates, patterns, embroideries, &c.

THE DEMOCRATIC AGE.—This is the title of a new monthly lately established in New York City, by C. Edwards Lester, and devoted to statesmanship, science, art literature, and progress. The January number of which we have received.—Published by R. Edwards & Co., No. 41, Park Row, N. Y. Price \$2.50 per year.

We would call the attention of our readers to the prospectus of the "Southern Homestead," an Agricultural and Family Journal, published at Nashville, Tenn. It will be found on the third page.

In another column we publish the proceedings of a Mass Meeting, held on New River, Ascension Parish. We give it for what it is worth. There are two sides of every question. This, involves its determination, the moral integrity of a man in whom the entire people of the State should feel no want of confidence, for, however we may differ among ourselves upon political questions there should not be the shadow of a cause for a difference of opinion as to the integrity and honesty of the representative of the sovereignty of the State. We hope that this matter may be thoroughly investigated. If Mr. Benjamin is really guilty, a fearful retribution not only awaits him, but the accessories after the fact, of his venality.

The press of North Louisiana, with one or two exceptions, clamored loudly and strenuously, in behalf of the selection of a United States Senator from their section of the State. Yet, in the late Senatorial election, only eight of their representatives voted for a candidate from North Louisiana, while twenty-five voted for Benjamin of New Orleans. We do not see, how, after this, they can with any propriety, claim a candidate for any office within the gift of the people of the entire State, merely upon the ground that he resides within their geographical limits.

NEW ORLEANS AND JACKSON RAILROAD.—The Sunny South (Miss) gives the following news in regard to the progress of extension on this road: Twenty-five miles additional of this road have been placed under contract. Fifty-two miles of this line above Canton is now under contract, and parties have formed to take contracts to the Oulibehaline, twenty miles further towards Aberdeen. Nothing definite has been learned as to the contract from Aberdeen south, but we expect to inform our readers in our next issue of the ratification of a contract between this city and the directory.

Roger A. Prior, of the Washington States, has recently been presented with a beautiful service of plate by a number of his personal friends in Virginia, as a token of their esteem for him as a man, and their admiration for him as an editor.

THE NEW MISSION TO SPAIN.—The New York Chronicle, the best representative of Spanish sentiment in this country, in a very handsome notice of Mr. Preston and his departure, expressed the opinion that his mission will prove a failure. "All Europe has been so scandalized by Mr. Buchanan's proposition for the sale of the Island of Cuba, that it is easy to understand what sensation the presence of the new North American Minister will make in Madrid." It thinks Mr. Preston may consider himself lucky if he is received at all without previous explanation of the object of his mission, perhaps "satisfaction" for the wounded national honor. Touching this last demand, would it not be well for the Spanish Secretary of State, Calderon Collantes, as the best representative of the nation, to send a cartel at once, on his arrival, to Mr. Preston, who will doubtless respond for the United States? It would certainly settle the matter as amicably and on principles as just as most duels between individuals.

RESTRICTION.—A lady of this city, says the Charleston Mercury, yesterday received from Rev. T. J. Sullivan, pastor of the Cathedral, the sum of \$500, payment of an unknown indebtedness, confessed to be rightfully due the heirs of her father. The debt has remained unpaid for a period of twenty-five years, as the honored parent of the lady has been dead over twenty years. As the money was received through the Confessional, of course the source from which it came was not communicated. The act is praiseworthy, and strongly exhibits the confidence and trust reposed by members of the Catholic communion in their pastors.

It is stated that there are twenty-eight Jewish converts to the Christian religion in New York, who meet every Sabbath. A periodical is published in New York, entitled "The Israelite Indeed," which takes the ground that Jesus of Nazareth is the "true Messiah." A converted Jew lately stated in a Boston prayer-meeting that he was led to investigate the Christian Scriptures by hearing Christians pray for the descendants of Abraham. He stated that 600 converted Jews are now preaching Christ.

THE SENATORIAL CAUCUS.

BATON ROUGE, LA. Jan'y 25, 1859. Mr. Editor:—The Senatorial Caucus adjourned on Saturday night, after 42 ballotings, to 10 o'clock on Monday morning. When assembled, the balloting was as follows: BALLOT 13 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56. Ben's 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 25 25 23 23 23. Sidg's 23 23 23 23 23 23 23 22 22 22 22 23 23 23. Gray 20 20 20 3 20 19 19 20 21 22 21 21 21. Par'm 1 1 18 1 2 2 1 1 1 1 1.

After the 52d ballot, the Benjamin and Sandidge men asked for a recess of ten minutes and carried it. They remained in consultation two hours and ten minutes, excluding the friends of Gray and Parham, until they became restless and were about to leave the room, when the former sent to know of the latter, if they had any proposition to make? They replied, that they had not. The Caucus then re-assembled, and after the 53d and 54th ballot, it was moved that the caucus adjourn, as there appeared but little probability of making a nomination. The motion was lost, and the 55th and 56th ballots were had, when a motion to adjourn was again submitted. At this stage, a proposition was submitted by the Benjamin men, and acceded to, that, after one more ballot, if there was no nomination, the caucus adjourn. The ballot was had, the 57th, which resulted, (without a nomination) as follows: Benjamin, 14; Sandidge, 35; Gray, 18; Parham, 2; Soule, 1. The friends of Gray and Parham called for the adjournment as acceded to and decided upon. The adjournment was refused. The friends of Gray and Parham, 22 in number, then retired from the Caucus and held a consultation. As the pledge to adjourn was not carried out in good faith, nineteen of the number determined not to return. The other three, friends of Mr. Parham, decided to go back into the Caucus. You know the result. Benjamin was nominated by twenty-six votes. Thus was he, by a portion only of the Caucus, chosen as the Democratic candidate for United States Senate, by one majority of their number, and therefore, a minority nominee. The friends of Sandidge and Gray together numbered 43; the whole number of Democrats in caucus 70; a majority of which requisite to nominate was 36—and yet Mr. Benjamin received the nomination by 26; yet less than was actually required to nominate, elected as such, and is now emphatically the minority senator of the Democracy of Louisiana, by the aid of the friends of Mr. Sandidge.

This has been one of the severest political contests in Louisiana. The friends of Mr. Gray maintained their position and their rights firmly, and by that firmness and decision forced the supporters of Sandidge and Benjamin, to show their hands and their true relations to each other. North Louisiana has suffered in this contest, but her true friends are not accountable for it. Her people must now speak for themselves in the great State contest soon to come off and we have no doubt they will speak in thunder tones.

THE THIRTY MILLIONS.—The Washington States, of the 19th, denies in authoritative language that the President has desired the presentation of the bill placing at his disposal thirty millions for the purchase of Cuba. It says that the circumstances for a purchase were never so unpropitious as now, and we could not hold it by force against France and England, a single month. The article recommends procrastination, and concludes as follows:

If it were allowable to discuss so grave a measure in the light of party expediency, we would suggest that the Democracy could not stand up under the burden of reproach to which the proposition of the Cuba caucus exposes them. The folly of the movement has been detected already by the Opposition journals, and they have raised an energetic clamor of corruption against the dominant party. If we proceed to justify the charge, the consequences will be disastrous to our ascendancy. Even now there is too much ground of accusation against the Democracy on the score of extravagance and impolitic expenditures.

An outlay of one \$100,000,000 for the support of Government; a deficit of several millions in the annual accounts, and a rapidly increasing public debt are incumbrances which the Democratic party will sustain with difficulty, if at all. Every year we seem to drift further and further from the old landmarks of State rights and economy, which have hitherto directed our policy.

Every year we impair the force of those Republican principles which gave us our hold on the popular heart, and which have so far sustained our ascendancy. It is time the Democracy were arrested in this progress of degeneracy and decay, else they will be precipitated from power sooner than the advocates and beneficiaries of prodigal expenditure anticipate in their present enjoyment of comfortable places and a sufficient stipend.

Mr. Morphy, says the Illustrated News of the World, may now fairly take rank as the Chess champion of the Old World as well as the New. No Englishman is found to do him battle, and every foreigner of note has now, with the exception of Der Luja, fallen an easy prey to the youthful conqueror. It is a question whether he be not the finest player to whom the world has yet given birth.

THE RE-ELECTION OF SENATOR DOUGLAS.—The Chicago Herald, "organ" of the Administration and owned by the United States Marshal, says the Rochester (N. Y.) Democrat, announces the result as follows:

The telegraph brings us the gratifying intelligence that the Legislature of Illinois has consummated the expressed will of the people, by re-electing Mr. Douglas to the United States Senate for six years from the 4th of March next. The majority on joint ballot is stated to have been eight—precisely the number claimed by the friends of Mr. Douglas after the election in November. A despatch from Springfield on Tuesday stated that it was the intention of the Republican members to defeat an election by bolting. Better and more patriotic counsels prevailed, however. The closing scene in the political drama of 1858 has been played out; and the characters are preparing to assume their places on the stage preparatory to the rising of the curtain on that of 1860.

MR. DOUGLAS WILL GO BEFORE THE CHARLESTON CONVENTION.—The Chicago Times, the home organ of Mr. Douglas, and which always speaks by authority, says: Mr. Douglas will not ask a nomination at the hands of the Charleston convention. If in that body his friends should present his name, and he be nominated, he will not feel at liberty to decline it; if his friends should not present his name, then the nominee of the body by any man or body of men, as a candidate for the Presidency or any other office, independent of and hostile to the nomination of the democratic party, is altogether unauthorized by Mr. Douglas, will never receive his sanction, and is wholly repugnant to his wishes and desires. We say this with much of a full knowledge of his truth, and knowing that we express in this particular his own sentiments.

AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

Mr. Seward, of New York, has introduced into the Senate an amendatory bill to the acts prohibiting the slave trade, by which he proposes to immolate greater numbers of Americans by the deadly climate of Africa, to this pseudo-philanthropic scheme of protecting African cannibals.

Southern men, remarks the Richmond Enquirer, may oppose the introduction of more slaves into the Federal Union, and be willing, for many reasons, to submit to the present legislation upon that subject, but we cannot see how any Southern man can be willing to go further, and increase the loss of life and treasure on the coast of Africa, in the prevention of this trade.

The London "Times" is wise enough to say, "We go on wasting the precious lives of English sailors upon the coast of Africa, where a rescued negro cannot be shown as a set off against ten dead Englishmen; where one impotent force has become a mockery and our blind and useless zeal a jest." Shall we not only continue, but increase the "mockery," and our still more "blind and useless zeal" become a greater jest by the enactment of this buncombe bill for New England Abolitionists?

We can prevent the introduction of more Africans into America, if it be the wish of the people, but to go on crusading for the protection of man-eating Africans, to continue the sacrifice of valuable life upon the coast of Africa to prevent Cuba from importing more negroes, is not only folly, but approaches wickedness. We would much prefer to see Congress give notice of our abrogation of all treaties for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, and, abandoning the Coast of Africa altogether, recall our fleets, commission the ships to more useful and profitable voyages.

We hope that every Southern man and every Northern man, who is not negro-mad, will vote down this bill "for the better destruction of American sailors on the coast of Africa," and turn their attention to the wants of white men, for whom they were elected to legislate.

To see Congress wasting its time in discussing the questions that arise out of American negroes, is bad enough; but to be squandering public money for the questionable benefit of African cannibals, passes all endurance.

By Mr. Seward's new bill, one million of dollars is appropriated for the better and more certain destruction of American sailors on the Coast of Africa, and this, too, out of a depleted and empty Treasury; increased taxation for the benefit of the King of Dahomey; a high tariff to protect cannibals in the better enjoyment of their repasts—one million of dollars to prevent the civilization and Christianization of African savages, to be appropriated from the Treasury of a people professing the religion of a God who commanded his chosen people, "of the heathen (in Africa,) of them shall ye go buy bond-men and bond-women"—as well as his disciples to preach his gospel to all people.

The practical effect of this bill may then be summed up as follows: The increased destruction to American sailors—the useless waste of national vessels—the reckless squandering of one million of dollars—the prevention of Christianizing Africa, the continuance and perpetuation of the moral desolation and darkness that now pervades that continent, and the increase of the facilities for Cannibalism. These are some of the effects of Mr. Seward's bill. He professes the religion of Christ, but would deny its blessings to the negroes of Africa—he acknowledges and feels proud of the civilization of Americans, but would deny its benefits to Africans. If we could consult alone the interest of Africa, we would reduce every negro in Africa to slavery, teach him his duty to God, and his duty to man, make him a useful being in the world of labor, and, by the wise legislation of the Southern States, fit him for the hereafter. But this cannot be done at least in our days.

Why, then, should the United States increase the waste of life and treasure upon the coast of Africa, by the enactment of this bill, whose ostensible object is the prevention of the slave trade, but whose real object is the elevation and promotion of Mr. Seward.

Gov. Rencher, of New Mexico, in a special message to the Legislature, says the armistice with the Navajoes amounts to nothing, as it don't provide for the surrender of the murderers of Major Brook's servant, nor payment for him. The Superintendent of Indian Affairs and the Commander of the Military Department says they will consent to no peace upon the terms of the armistice. They will require the return of the private and public property taken during the war, and the establishment of a line, east of which the Indians shall neither plant nor graze stock.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE IN FRANCE.—The President's message, although the subject of lively criticism on the part of the French press, seems nevertheless to be regarded rather as the expression of an individual than of a nation. As such, its hostile recommendations towards other nations are deprived of much of their importance, and the French journals refuse to believe that the American people either share his views, or are prepared to engage in their execution.

THE PARAGUAY EXPEDITION.—It is said that Speaker Orr and other leading Democrats assert that when discretion was conferred on the President to redress our alleged grievances against Paraguay, the expectation was that a special commission would be appointed at the cost of ten or twenty thousand dollars, a report of the experiment made to Congress before proceeding to such extremities as have been adopted. The present expedition may involve millions before being concluded.

WELL DONE ARKANSAS!—We see stated that a resolution has been introduced into the Arkansas House of Representatives, declaring the justness of the State debt, acknowledging the obligations of the State to pay it, and directing the Committee on Ways and Means to report a bill to provide for the payment of the interest, and for the principle of the whole State debt when it shall become due.

UNSUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT.—After two years experimenting in New York with a law allowing parties litigant under certain conditions to become witnesses in their own cases, the Legislature has now a bill before it to repeal the statute: the law having proved the cause of public scandal.

ACQUISITION OF CUBA.

The bill introduced into the United States Senate, by Mr. Sillidell, to facilitate the acquisition of Cuba, is, in substance, as follows:

Whereas Cuba geographically possesses a commanding influence over the large and annually increasing trade, foreign and coastwise, of the Mississippi Valley; and whereas the Island in its present colonial condition must continue a source of injury and annoyance, endangering the friendly relations between Spain and the United States by the aggressions of its local authority upon American commerce and citizens; for which tardy redress can only be had by a circuitous demand upon Spain; and whereas, in the opinion of Congress and in accordance with the views of the President, as the last means of settling the existing and removing future difficulties, it is expedient that negotiations for the purchase of the Island should be renewed; therefore resolved, that \$30,000,000 be placed in the President's hands for expenditures, either from cash in the treasury or that it be borrowed on 5 per cent. bonds of \$1,000 each, redeemable in from twelve to twenty years.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Senator Sillidell, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, presented their report on the subject of the acquisition of Cuba. The report is a lengthy and an elaborate embodiment of all the arguments in favor of the acquisition of the Island, embracing the views of the various Presidents and statesmen on this subject.

It favors the acquisition by purchase, if practicable, but assumes that forcible measures may be rendered necessary for self-preservation. The report says that the ultimate acquisition of Cuba may be considered as a fixed purpose of the United States, resulting from our geographical and political necessities, and recognized by all parties and Administrations, and endorsed by the popular voice.

The report says the purchase of Louisiana led to the purchase of Florida, and both point to Cuba. Cuba will become to the nation what the mouth of the Mississippi has become to the great West. It says our greatest statesmen have steadily and perseveringly endeavored to hasten the acquisition of Cuba by every honorable means. It advances the opinion that our national existence depends in a great measure upon our growth—our expansion. England, it continues, is expanding in India; France is expanding in Africa, or on the Rhine; Russia is expanding in barbarous Asia, and we claim the same privilege of expansion on this hemisphere.

Those Powers, the report continues, grew by absorbing the smaller nations, and we, by our geographical position, higher civilization, and greater aptitude for government. The fruit not ripe in John Quincy Adams' time is now mature. Shall it be plucked by a friendly hand willing to compensate its proprietor, or shall it fall to the ground?

Spain, it says, cannot long maintain its grasp on Cuba, and there are but three alternatives: First, the possession of Cuba by an European Power. This would be incompatible with the safety of the United States, and must be resisted by us. This would result in a protracted war or less dignified. If Cuba should thus come under our protection, annexation would follow; if under European protection, civil and servile wars must be the result.

3d. Annexation to the United States. This must be effected by purchase or conquest. The latter would be expensive and involve the world in war. The report concludes, therefore, that the purchase of the island is the only practicable course to pursue, and says the President must be clothed with powers and provided with means to negotiate for its purchase.

It says that in case of a European war Spain would become involved, and Cuba would declare her independence, as a large portion of the inhabitants of the island are in favor of annexation to the United States.

It intimates that the opponents of the Slave trade should advocate the bill as a measure of suppressing the traffic.

It scolds the Spanish notions of national pride, when the whole world has known our views and policy on the subject for years, and regards the purchase of Cuba as a mere ceremony. Mr. Mason did not believe that successive absorptions of smaller States was necessary to our national existence.

Seward considered the proposition to purchase Cuba unwise and ridiculous, and offered some constitutional objections. Mr. Bayard advocated the bill.

Mr. Tombs replied to Seward's constitutional objections.

THE DOUGLAS AND FITCH AFFAIR.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—The Union of to-day publishes a correspondence that has taken place between Senator Douglas and Fitch, relative to offensive words spoken by the latter in debate, during the session of Friday last. First, Douglas politely offers Fitch an opportunity of retracting. Second, Fitch says he had used the language complained of in response to what he understood to be a general charge by Douglas against the Illinois executive appointments, including Fitch's own son. Third, Douglas maintains the right of a Senator to comment freely on all executive appointments, and denies that his remarks are fairly to be interpreted as embracing the case of Fitch's son; he reminds Fitch that, admitting this, he still failed to withdraw the offensive language, but subsequently, in debate, said he had nothing to retract. Then, Fitch says that Douglas' explanation as to the son of Mr. Fitch being more explicit, he withdraws the offensive language provoked as stated. Next, Douglas retracts, but repeats the idea that the second note was intended as a precedent inducing a condition of redress, instead of being merely responsive to specifications in Fitch's first note.

Fitch then replies, and says he cannot judge of the motives which dictated the second note of Douglas, but his (Fitch's) answer was predicated upon his (D's) explanations, and if they were disavowed, the withdrawal must likewise be disavowed. Lastly, Douglas rejoins, avowing that he is averse to prolonging the controversy, after giving in substance, what he had demanded; adding that it is immaterial to him upon what Fitch predicates his withdrawal, since he, (Douglas) has guarded against all misapprehension.

Senator Benjamin acted as the friend of Fitch, and Senator Fretor for Douglas. The correspondence was published, by the first named Senator, without notification to the friend of the latter, and the probability is that there will be another sharp correspondence.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

We are authorized to announce Hon. JOHN E. KING, as an independent candidate for the office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, for the Third Judicial District. Election the first Monday in April.

PROBATE SALE.

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, (Seventh District PARISH OF EAST FELICIANA,) Court, No. 3026. In the matter of the succession of B. M. Collier, deceased. IN PURSUANCE of an order to me directed, by the Honorable Court aforesaid, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell at public auction, at the door of the Court House, in said Parish, on TUESDAY, March 1, 1859, at 11 o'clock, a. m., the following property appertaining to said succession, to wit: Negro woman named FINETTE, aged about 33 years, and her son, named PETER, aged about 10 years. TERMS OF SALE. Cash, provided they bring their appraised value. Jan. 29, 1859. B. M. G. BROWN, Sheriff.