

Freemen's Champion.



Volume 1--Number 16.

PRAIRIE CITY, KANZAS, THURSDAY, FEB. 25, 1858.

Terms--\$2 Per Annum.

The Freeman's Champion
IS PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT
PRAIRIE CITY, KANZAS,
By PROUTY & WILLETT.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:
One copy one year, \$2 00
Three copies one year, 5 00
Ten " " " " 15 00

*Payment required in all cases in advance. All papers discontinued at the time for which payment is received.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING:
First insertion, per line, 10 cts.
Each subsequent insertion, per line, 5 "

*Advance payment will be required for advertisements from a distance.
*Moneys, properly registered with postmasters, may be forwarded by mail at our risk.

Kansas Politics, &c.

To the People of Kansas.

The public are already conscious that at the session of the Legislative Assembly of Kansas Territory a law was passed entitled "An Act to provide for the election of Delegates to a Convention to frame a State Constitution." That act contemplates our early admission into the Union as a sovereign State. The brief period intervening between the passage of the act and the time fixed for the election of delegates, requires vigilant action on the part of the people to secure a full representation in that Convention. As several committees claimed the right to speak for and represent the Free State party in the coming canvass, a movement was made to harmonize these committees, by forming a temporary union of all of them. The following official proceedings of those committees will show the result of their action in this direction:

At a joint convention of the Territorial Executive Committee appointed at Grasshopper Falls, on the 26th of August last; of a portion of the State Central Committee appointed at Lawrence on the 23d of December last, held at Odd Fellows' Hall, in Lawrence, on the evening of the 14th inst., P. C. Schuyler was chosen Chairman, and Wm. Hutchinson and D. H. Weir were elected Secretaries. It was, on motion, unanimously

Resolved, That each of the above mentioned committees be requested to select five persons from their respective committees, who shall constitute a special Free State Union Committee, who shall have full power to take all needful action for securing a full vote of the Free State party, in the elections which shall take place under the new Constitutional movement, both for delegates to the Constitutional Convention, and the officers under that Constitution.

The several committees retired to separate rooms, each of which had a quorum for business, and after full consultation, reported through their respective Chairmen the following gentlemen, as representatives of their several committees, to wit:

Ex. Territorial Committee.—G. W. Smith, P. C. Schuyler, G. W. Brown, G. W. Hutchinson, J. H. Lane.

State Central Committee.—James Blood, Wm. Hutchinson, Henry Harvey, E. S. Nash, W. F. M. Army.

Free State Central Committee.—D. H. Weir, Robert Morrow, S. C. Pomroy, E. Heath, S. N. Wood.

The report was received and the names submitted were unanimously adopted as the Union Committee of the Free State Party, to act for the purposes expressed in the first resolution copied above.

The committee continued in session, with the officers elected at the organization of the meeting still in the chair by general consent.

On motion of Gen. Lane, the following was unanimously adopted.
Resolved, That G. W. Smith be President of this committee; Wm. Hutchinson, Vice President; D. H. Weir, Secretary; and Jas. Blood, Treasurer; and that all calls be signed by the President, Vice President, and Secretary.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draw up a circular to the people of the Territory in regard to the forthcoming election; and G. W. Smith, S. N. Wood, G. W. Brown, Wm. Hutchinson, and W. F. M. Army be such committee.

A committee of one from each of the original committees, as follows: S. N. Wood, W. F. M. Army and O. E. Leonard, were appointed on finance.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this convention be published at length in all the Free State papers of the Territory.

On motion, adjourned, subject to the call of the proper officers.

P. C. SCHUYLER Ch'n.
Wm. HUTCHINSON, Secretaries.
D. H. WEIR.

To every Free State man, this Union will be a source of gratification, as it gives sure indication of united action and a harmonious result. It is urgently requested that the same liberal spirit which has characterized the several committees will prevail with the people, and that laying aside all personal considerations, they unite as one man in securing a great moral and political triumph for the Free State cause. It is expected that every man will do his whole duty; that to make the work successful, as large a vote as possible will be polled for delegates, and that care be taken in the selection of those delegates, that they faithfully reflect the popular will. To this end, let county, township and precinct organizations be made by the people with the least possible delay. Where those organizations have been thus perfected, they are expected to lose no time in presenting the issues in their true character to their constituents.

The act calling for the Convention will be published in the papers of the Territory, and generally circulated in circular form, a copy of which you are expected to secure and study with care, and see that elections are held in strict conformity with law.

By the organic act, members of the late Territorial Legislature are believed by legal gentlemen to be prohibited from holding any offices under the Convention law. To prevent vacancies on this account, or the introduction of a question in regard to it, other reliable Free State men should be selected as delegates.

One copy of the returns from the various precincts should be directed to Messrs. Babcock & Deitzler, at Lawrence, who are authorized by law to receive them—the other to Hon. J. W. Denver, at Leocompton.

Again we urge our friends to united effort, and trust that the result will be such as to reflect credit upon the individual actors in the movement, as well as to advance the cause of Freedom in Kansas, and the principles of civil liberty throughout the world.

G. W. SMITH,
W. F. M. ARMY,
Wm. HUTCHINSON,
G. W. BROWN,
S. N. WOOD.

A Kansas Portrait Painter.

"H," the Kansas correspondent of the St. Louis Democrat, has lately given the following description of those Ruffian notabilities, Calhoun, McLean and Cato. The pictures are accurately portrayed. We can testify to this fact, from personal knowledge:—

"Kansas politics and troubles have kept the nation in a state of turmoil for years. At present there appears to be no solution of the problem, but the difficulties seem to be complicated—the wicked pertinacity with which this and the former administration have endeavored to force obnoxious institutions on a free people, calls forth our sympathies, and arouses our indignation. The leading idea of the government to make Kansas a democratic slave state, having been so signally rebuked in the failure of the policy of the several incumbents of the gubernatorial office, ought to be a warning to desist from this disastrous policy. But "whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad," and now we find the President of the United States in the teeth of his own explicit declaration on assuming office, and with that insincerity which has characterized all his public acts, exerting all the influence and power of his high office to subvert the great and fundamental principle which has upheld our government. The opinions and dicta of a few reckless and unprincipled men are made to outweigh the potent voice of the ballot-box, and did we not see in their nefarious policy the utter disruption and dissolution of the party, there would be serious cause for every freeman to mourn. A few desperate and wicked men upheld by the government, have brought things to this deplorable issue, not one possessing any quality of the statesman; but by low cunning and unprincipled management arising at their unholy ends. Calhoun is generally recognized as the head of this clique; he is well known by name now throughout the Union for his daring effrontery and boldness; at home he is the terror of his own political partisans (for he allows no divided empire) and the abhorrence of

every well wisher of an established government; his appearance is indicative of the perversity of nature; his age somewhere near fifty-six; about the middle size and strongly built; the countenance stern and forbidding; his greyish blue eye full of arrogance and cruelty; the forehead high, narrow and receding; thick and protruding lips and massive jaws, evincing sensuality in its strongest form; and lastly, a complexion varying with the quantity of his potatoes—in the morning a gentle roseate hue, at noon it presents the appearance of the sun in an eclipse, and at midnight in the midst of his bacchanalian orgies it resembles the blue and purple color of tough bull beef in fly time. He is entirely destitute of political principle, and although receiving an ample salary from the government, he is in debt to every store and grocery in Leocompton. The doggeries in particular hold him in execration, for he not only drinks without pay himself, but he is always attended by a number of his satellites who are always free to imbibe at his nominal expense. He is ably supported by his Lieut. and chief clerk, yeelp Gen. McLean—a bonny Scot from the wilds of Inverary. He left "his country for his country's good."

We next find him on the soil of Kansas, and the exciting times brought him into notice and favored his advancement—he was a coadjutor of much importance in those war-like times, for his marauding qualities and plundering proclivities were invaluable to an invading force. He was at once appointed quarter-master general, and truly he more than realized the expectations of his compatriots, for was there a train to be rifled, a yoke of oxen to be impressed, or a fat porker to be victimized, he was then and there ready for the occasion, and the camp literally revelled on beef and whisky during his administration. In such forays no description of valuables ever escaped the vigilant eyes or nimble fingers of his detestable myrmidons—in fact, he became as notorious and terrible to the affrighted people of Kansas, as Rob Roy to the peaceable inhabitants of the low-lands. He is a man of large, but ungainly stature, apparently of great physical strength, of a stolid countenance, set off by a peculiar costume which he affects, a brace of revolvers in his belt, the handle of a huge knife protruding from his bosom, in his brawny fist a cudgel of tremendous proportions, and you have the picture of a man who has done much to perpetuate the present unhappy state of affairs in the territory.

"I shall close this communication with the notice of a man who ought not to be separated from the foregoing worthies, and this is that worthy administrator of the laws, Judge Cato. Perhaps he has done more mischief than the other two, for his office afforded him numerous instances for annoyance and oppression, and he never failed to make the fullest use of it. Free state men have been taken up at his suggestion and imprisoned, almost without a shadow of legal proof; warrants have been granted against obnoxious persons, and without the guarantee of an oath.—The records of the court have been mutilated to shield some reckless partisan, and silently and secretly in collusion with the prosecuting officer, many a noble prosequi has been entered in favor of the most atrocious criminals. Leocompton has been compared to the infamous Jeffreys, but the parallel should be made between him and Cato, for he possesses the same brutality, everbearing conduct and drunken habits of that wicked judge. It is almost a mockery to call, where he presides, a court. Go in during the regular term, when you might expect a numerous audience, and you behold a thin-faced man, with elongated features and Bardoliphian nose, seated on a bench elevated a step or two above the level of the floor, he is evidently in a state of somnolency, from the frequent nods and occasional boisterous snorts; upon looking round you find two other persons occupying the same apartment. The one engaged so busily in whittling is the deputy marshal, who eyes with wistful look the corner house on the other side of the street. The other occupies a small enclosure near the bench, and appears busily employed in assorting papers. You approach this specimen of humanity, and enquire if this is the court and when it will be in session; he turns a look of stolidity and fishy eyes first on you and then a more lengthy look on the sleeping dignitary, and in a peevish and querulous voice answers that the business of the court will be proceeded with after his

honor wakes up and takes some additional refreshment."

A Picture from the Other Side.
[From the Westport, (Mo.) Star of Empire.
"DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP."

The immortal Lawrence, dying upon the deck of his ship, in the hottest of a naval conflict, cries out: "My boys, don't give up the ship; let the American flag wave over me while I live." May that sentiment sink deep into the hearts of the Southern people of Kansas and the Union.

Not a few are ready to give up the conflict; it has been so trying to one's patience, so annoying to families, attended with heavy pecuniary losses, to such we say:

"Let thy scope,
Be one fixed mind for all; thy rights approve,
To thine own conscience gradually renewed;
Learn to make time the father of wise hope;
Then trust thy cause to the arm of fortitude,
The light of knowledge and the warmth of love."

Now is the crowning trial of your fidelity, when victory is yours if a little self-denial, with patience, is exercised. Stay in the Territory; do not raise a hand, except to place it upon the plow handles. The only way, at this time, to serve your own interests and the cause of Kansas, is to extend your capital, open and improve the lands, build up towns, and put your shoulders to the execution of the laws that be. Kansas is a slave State, with Democratic officers to start with, and is forced to remain so, by her Constitution, until 1865; in that time, the freedom shriekers will sneak away into Mormondom.

As the sinner enters upon the unknown world, so he remains to endless ages. If he starts in heaven, upon a career of bliss, so he remains as long as the sand is left upon the seashore. Analogously; if Kansas enters the gates of this Union a slave State, she will always be so. But we do not sustain our point by the mere force of analogy.

We ask the old men of the country, to look back to the day when Missouri was admitted into the Union. A formidable free soil party peopled this State, and threatened, if Congress admitted us a slave State, the tables would be changed in two years.—Northern members of Congress predicted the same result. At that time there was but a few slaves in and near St. Louis, and up the Missouri river; not as many as are now to be found in Kansas. Yet, in the face of all this, Missouri is a slave State, and is likely to remain so forever. Frank Blair, backed by the whole Northern press, with his maps and diagrams, tried to demonstrate the decay of slavery in Missouri, but only succeeded in impressing the people with his ignorance. The act consigned him, along with Darnes and his abettors, to obliquity and disgrace. The people of Missouri were left better satisfied with the institution, and fully convinced that it was impregnable.

As to these rebels and disturbers of the public peace, they will soon cool down, some moving off to other new Territories, others returning home in shame. A goodly number of them, as was the fact in this State, will come over to the prevailing sentiment. Self-interest, as well as regard for their own case, will make them do it.

At the same time, slave-holders will move over, and carry with them a moral force with capital, irresistible. Many in our State, who are unable to purchase a home at the high price of lands, have been waiting for the solution of this question in Kansas, expecting to lay out their small capital in the purchase and improvement of homesteads. Settlers from the South, will be attracted over, by the extreme fertility of the soil and salubrity of the climate until this institution of slavery is founded deep in the convictions of the people.

BENTON ON DOUGLAS.—The following good one is told of "Old Bullion." Speaking of the Douglas defection, he remarked: "We hear much said about the people that Douglas will take off. He has not taken off the people—the people have taken off Douglas, sir."

The new phrase of the Democracy now is "The factious majority," and that deserves to be put down. There is an impudent coolness in this which Barnum might have rejoiced over in his palmist days.

Judge ELMORE, of Tecumseh, is in Washington, and is wielding his influence against the passage through Congress of the Leocompton swindle.

SOURCE—Honest politicians.—G. W. Brown.

A Protest
To the Honorable the House of Representatives of the United States.

The undersigned were appointed a Committee, by a Delegate Convention of the people of Kansas, held at the town of Lawrence on Dec. 23, to memorialize your honorable body, and to protest, in their name, against the admission of our Territory into the Union, as a sovereign State, under the instrument known as the Leocompton Constitution.

In discharge of the duties thus imposed and accepted, we ask you to reject the Leocompton Constitution.

Because the Legislative Assembly, by which the Convention which framed it was called into existence, was elected by armed companies of Missouri invaders, and did not represent, but did constantly and willfully misrepresent, the political and moral sentiments and wishes of the people of Kansas.

Because—according to the opinions and decisions of eminent judicial authorities; a Territorial Legislature, even if legally elected, has no constitutional power to originate a State Government.

Because—this power to initiate or establish a Government, being vested in the people or in Congress alone—by the fraudulent census and iniquitous apportionment for the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention, the majority of the actual inhabitants of the Territory were deprived of the right of representation in it.

Because the instrument thus illegally framed was not submitted for ratification or rejection to a vote of the people.

Because it establishes in our land, forever, an institution which, in the opinion of a majority of our people, is politically and socially a curse, and morally a crime against God and man.

Because the Constitution itself, apart from its origin and its slavery clause, is imperfect, anti-republican, inconsistent, and in many other respects justly obnoxious to the people.

Because—as your honorable body will soon learn from official records—a vast and earnest majority of our people have expressed, through the ballot box, their opposition to it; and in delegate conventions and public assemblies have sworn to resort to revolution by civil war, rather than submit to the tyranny which it seeks to establish.

From the manner in which the Territorial Legislature was elected; because it had no right to initiate a State Government;

Because the people were unrepresented and misrepresented in the Leocompton Convention;

Because the Constitution framed by it was not submitted to the popular vote;

Because it is intended to extend, establish and perpetuate an organized crime;

Because the so-called Constitution is unsuited to us, obnoxious and imperfect, and in order to prevent a renewal of civil war, we have the right to expect, and do ask your honorable body to reject it, and we do most solemnly protest against its acceptance by the Congress of the United States.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

JAS. REDPATH, Ch'n.
C. ROBINSON,
W. Y. ROBERTS,
W. OAKLEY,
T. D. THACHER,
S. C. POMEROY,
J. P. ROOT,
J. H. LANE,
S. F. TAPPAN,
P. B. PLUMB,
A. A. JAMESON,
JOSIAH MILLER,
E. B. WHITMAN,
J. M. WALDEN,
WM. A. PHILLIPS.

The Slave Trade—Horrible Details.

A correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce, writing from St. Helena, records the arrival at that port of a prize schooner, captured while engaged in the Slave trade.—The writer visited the schooner and furnishes the following in relation thereto. He says:

"I found a small schooner whose deck and hold swarmed with the poor creatures as thick as they could sit, most of them young men—very many boys, and about eighty girls and young women. They had been stowed in sitting postures in the hold, and then over their heads a slave deck laid, whereupon were crowded the women and boys, in a space barely high enough to admit of sitting up-

right.

I could not have believed it possible that so many human beings could be stowed in such a space. When I visited them, they of course were not in irons, nor confined in their original positions; for the deck was alive with them. I cannot find language in which to paint the filth and disgusting stench of this prison-house of miserable, wretched sufferers.—The naked bodies, filth of person, emaciated limbs, to almost skeletons, worn and pitiable faces upturned, arms, legs, or persons still sore from the slave-stealers fiery marking brand, all presented a scene most sickening. I thought was it possible that man could steel his heart so fiercely, and quench out his soul so utterly as to look on such a scene, with the dead and dying piling around him, and yet gloat over his gains as he pressed over the waters beneath God's pure sky and witnessing stars, on an errand so diabolical? Yet it is even so.

Soon after the poor wretches were landed, clothing, blankets, &c., were furnished them, and as cold water or bread was given them, they mutely clasped their hands in gratitude before they drank. We learn that about fifteen or twenty slaves have recently been captured on the South coast, some with their living freight, but most just prepared to receive them, and some with a large amount of specie on board. It is thought by officers of the men-of-war, that a check has been given the traffic by the severe losses lately met with—but I fear not. Such losses only make more grasping the avarice that takes the very life blood. The American squadron on the Coast is too small for effective action, and they should be steamers, for all the work has been done under the American flag, to its disgrace; but I learn that the present Commodore on the station has fresh instructions, giving greater encouragement and less restrictions than formerly, and consequently the Cumberland and Dale are now on the South Coast, actively employed."

Facts for Emigrants to Kansas.

1. Kansas has an area of one hundred and fourteen thousand, seven hundred and ninety-eight square miles.
2. It is fourteen times as large as Massachusetts.
3. It is as large as Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland and South Carolina combined.
4. The land at present open to pre-emption is large enough to accommodate seventy-five thousand families, or half a million of individuals, exclusive of the population of cities, towns and villages.
5. When Kansas is as densely populated as England, it will contain a population of thirty-eight million, one hundred and twelve thousand, nine hundred and thirty-six souls.
6. Kansas is the garden of the United States.
7. Its climate is genial and healthy, and its soil is of unsurpassed fertility.
8. It has wood enough for all practical purposes.
9. Coal banks have been discovered in several districts of this Territory.
10. It is intersected in every direction by running streams; pure water is found at a moderate depth, in every district of the Territory.
11. Every male adult or widow is entitled, under the laws of Congress, to pre-empt one hundred and sixty acres; and they are not required to pay for it until the day of public land sale.
12. Those men—Free State men—who cannot raise \$200 when their land falls due, will find no difficulty in borrowing it, or in mortgaging their farm.
13. There are at present, at the lowest calculation, six Free State men in Kansas as for every friend of the domestic iniquity of the Southern States.
14. For the services of respectable young women as teachers, domestic helps and seamstresses, there is a great demand in every new country, and especially so in Kansas.
15. Prairie City is the best point in central Kansas for persons of limited means to locate in. The proprietors of the town offer more liberal inducements to settlers than any other town in the Territory.
16. The advertisement of the Prairie City Association, on the fourth page of this paper, will give people in the East a correct idea of the condition of the country, &c., in the vicinity of Prairie City.