Watchman & State Journal.

BY E. P. WALTON, JR.

MONTPELIER, JUNE 9, 1854.

The State Convention.

Below are the proceedings of the Convention of the 7th—copied from the Rutland Herald extra, with a few errors corrected, which escaped notice in the hurry of publication. We have little time or space for comments, and will simply say, that the convention was the largest convened for several years; that in the Platform it has dissolved all connection with the propagandists of Slavery, and prepared the way for the union of all honest, independent and patriotic men in what may most fitly be styled the LEAGUE OF FREEDOM; that the ticket recommended is composed of men eminently worthy of the confidence of the people; and that in all things the convention was characterised by unanimity beyond the most sanguine expectation, and by a spirit also which will command success.

Whig State Convention.

RUTLAND, June 7, 1854.

Agreeably to a call issued by the Whig State Central Committee, Convention met at 2 o'clock P. M., and was called to order by a member of State Committee, and the following gentlemen were elected permanent officers of the Convention:

President:

HON. WM. HEBARD.

Vice Presidents:

HON. JOHN PECK, HON. HENRY F. JANES, Hon. J. W. COLBURN, Hon. JOHN DEWEY, Hon. LEONARD SARGEANT, Gen. P. T. KIMBALL.

Secretaries:

C. H. HAYDEN, CHAS. CUMMINGS, C. W. WILLARD.

Hon. Geo. T. Hodges, of Rutland, then made some very complimentary remarks in reference to Hon. Erastus Fairbanks, and afterwards read a letter from that gentleman declining a renomination.

EX-GOVERNOR FAIRBANKS' LETTER.

St. Johnsbury, May 12th, 1854.

Hon. Geo. T. Hodges:—

MY DEAR SIR:—Very early after the canvass for State Officers, last autumn, I signified to several gentlemen my intention to withdraw my name as a candidate for another election, on account of extensive and pressing business engagements.

Grateful for the kindness of my political associates, and for the confidence reposed in me by the Whig Party, it would afford me sincere pleasure could I yield to the solicitations of my friends, and place my name at their disposal. But the reason I have named for declining to be a candidate for the office, appears to me to be paramount. I beg you, therefore, my dear Sir, to communicate my decision to the Convention, and to assure its members of my desire, and of my confident expectation that their proceedings will be harmonious, and the efforts of the Vermont Whig Party, in the ensuing canvass, triumphant.

I remain, Sir, with true regard,
Your friend and obt. servant.

ERASTUS FAIRBANKS.

MR. MEACHAM'S LETTER.

Washington, May 31, 1854.

FRIEND HARRIS:—I have delayed an answer to your letter in the hope that I should be able to announce that Senator Foot, or Mr. Sabin, would attend the State Convention. Previous engagements—I need not name them—will deprive me of that pleasure.

I feel anxious that some one of those men, abler than myself to describe the scenes of the Nebraska struggle, should be in your Convention. And yet, I know that it is impossible for even an eye witness to give an exact impression of the contest.—The alternation of hopes and fears of the phalanx that so long resisted the needless, and unauthorized, and infamous violation of plighted faith, can never be given!

The Missouri Compromise is repealed!—Do you ask how it was done? I will tell you.

1. Without the request, and against the wish of every man who petitioned Congress on the subject.

2. By crowding *out of place* all the most important business of the session, and crowding in a measure to which an overwhelming majority of the people were opposed.

3. By bringing—I do not say bribing—to its support, through Executive influence and patronage, men who acted against their own declared judgments, and the known will of their constituents.

4. By trampling under foot the Rules of the House of Representatives, made in accordance with the Constitution, and thus, violently depriving the minority of their legal rights and just privileges.

5. By refusing to allow the people to express their decision on the question, lest—as Senator Petit, of Indiana, declared—the people should refuse it now, or for years to come, and perhaps forever.

If the will of the People had been obeyed, *the Act could not have passed*. If it had taken its legal place in the order of business, it could not have passed. If the Executive power had not, unrighteously, interposed its influence, it could not have passed. If the Rules of the House, and the rights of the minority, had not been crushed, it could not have passed.

The Missouri Compromise, therefore, was repealed, not only without authority and without law, but in known and acknowledged violation of both!

The Missouri Compromise being repealed, the question of Slavery is re opened in all the Territories of the Union.

The Baltimore Platform being violated by all parties except Northern Whigs, it will not be expected that that body of men will any longer be held by the fragments of a broken and abandoned truce.

In this posture of affairs, I trust that the Whigs of Vermont, holding the first State Convention since the passage of the Nebraska bill, will take ground wisely and firmly, that

1. There shall be no more territory acquired by the funds of freemen, unless on the express condition that Slavery shall be *forever* excluded from it.

2. That on no condition shall another slave State ever be added to the Union.

3. That Slavery shall be wiped out of every part of the Republic, except where shielded by positive municipal law.

I hope the Whigs of Vermont will take that position not only for themselves, but for their children after them; and when they have taken it, *that they will nail their colors to the mast!*

Very truly yours,

J. MEACHAM.

P S. I am gratified in being authorized to say that our able and faithful colleague, Hon. Alvah Sabin, will be with you at the Convention.

On motion the Chair appointed the following gentlemen a committee to draft resolutions:

E. P. Walton, Jr., Thomas Hale, James H. Barrett, E. B. Whiting, and O. H. Platt.

E. Kirkland, Esq., offered a resolution that the Convention be resolved into County Conventions for the purpose of appointing a Committee to present to the Convention candidates for State Officers, and a State Central Committee. Said Committee to consist of thirty, and each County to have the number on the Committee equal to its representatives in the State Senate.

On motion of Hon. Charles Adams, of Burlington, this resolution was laid on the table.

Mr. Adams then offered a resolution that the Convention adjourn till July 4th, before the nomination of State officers. Opposed by Hon. Orlando Stevens, of St. Albans, and David Hazard, Esq., of Ferrisburgh. This resolution was laid on the table and the previous one called up and adopted. Whereupon the Convention adjourned 30 minutes.

Nominating Committee.

Addison Co.—Wm. Nash, Edward Seymour.

Caledonia County.—B. Moulton, Dr. J. P. Bancroft.

Franklin Co.—O. Carpenter, O. Stevens, J. Platt.

Bennington Co.—J. C. Roberts, H. G. Root.

Washington Co.—H. F. Janes, C. W. Willard.

Essex County.—G. W. Hartshorn.

Grand Isle Co.—Samuel Adams.

Orleans Co.—Portus Baxter.

Windsor Co.—A. Field, D. A. Heald, I. Raymond, G. C. West.

Orange Co.—C. C. P. Baldwin, H. R. Hale.

Chittenden Co.—H. B. Stacy, A. B. Maynard, P. C. Hewett.

Rutland Co.—G. T. Hodges, J. K. Hyde, Amon Bailey.

Lamoille Co.—Moses Morse.

Windham Co.—B. D. Harris, M. Crawford, John Tufts.

E. P. Walton, Jr., in behalf of the Committee on Resolutions, reported the following:

1. *Resolved*, That while we retain our attachment to the general principles and policy which have hitherto distinguished us, we recognize in the issues presented by the repeal of the 8th section of the Missouri compromises, matters of surpassing importance, which demand the instant and earnest attention of every lover of Freedom.

2. *Resolved*, That we have regarded the Missouri Compromise as perpetually binding in law and conscience, and the violation of it, in the passage of the Nebraska bill, we look upon as impairing the obligations of a solemn contract, and therefore flagrantly unjust in itself; as treacherous to the interests of freedom for the country at large; as cruel in its bearing upon the Indian tribes; as hostile to the peace, charity and unity of the country; as eminently ungentlemanly and dishonorable in the spirit in which it was conceived: in the pledges by which personal responsibility was sought to be, and was broken down, through sectional prejudices; and in the "hot haste" which would neither calmly listen to the voice of the country through petitions, nor dare to await for an appeal to the people through the elections; and we will, in all ways, testify and struggle as we may be able, against a transaction so iniquitous in its character, and so injurious in its effects.

3. *Resolved*, That the virtual repeal of the 8th section of the Missouri Compromise demands and receives our utter condemnation, as palpable perfidy to a solemn Pledge of Freedom, designed to be sacred and irrepealable—a pledge made by the Government to the people, and by the South to the North,—the violation of which forfeits all claim of the South upon the faith of the North in their honor and fidelity, and impairs the confidence of the people in the stability of all compromises, of all laws, and of the Constitution and Union itself.

4. *Resolved*, That regarding this act as a violation of the plighted faith of the Government, that Government must be reformed, and we pledge ourselves to the work of reform;—regarding it as a measure of the National Administration, enforced by the power and patronage of the President, in violation alike of his pledges and his duty, the Administration must be changed, and executive power be rebuked and restrained;—regarding it as a repudiation and annulment, by the South, of the Compromises of 1850, and Baltimore Platform of 1852, so far as they relate to Slavery, "the act for the recovery of fugitives from labor included,"—we pledge ourselves for the repeal of that act, and to resist the admission of Utah and New Mexico as States without constitutions excluding Slavery; and, finally, regarding it as a violation of the plighted faith of the South, for the purpose of extending Slavery against our will, our conscience, and our rights, we hereby pledge ourselves to the Defence of Freedom, by the restriction of Slavery to the States in which it exists—by the exclusion of slavery at the earliest practicable moment and by all constitutional means, from all federal territory, Nebraska, Kansas, and the District of Columbia inclusive—by opposing the admission to the Union of any new State tolerating Slavery, whether it be formed from territory belonging to Texas or elsewhere—and by resisting the acquirement of any new territory wherein Slavery exists, unless its prohibition forever shall first have been provided for.

5. *Resolved*, That as a means of removing and excluding Slavery from federal territory, we recommend the formation of associations, either voluntary or chartered by the State, to secure the emigration of reliable and intelligent freemen, pledged irrevocably to the cause of Freedom.

6. *Resolved*, That as the earnest of a deliberate, determined and irrevocable purpose to carry into practical effect the above propositions, we further declare that we will not support for the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or of Representative in Congress, or as Member of a State Legislature, any man, of whatever party, who is not known to be in favor of the purposes expressed in the forgoing resolutions, and in this also.

7. *Resolved*, That we hereby invite the co-operation of all freemen of Vermont, who agree with us in the principles and purposes herein set forth, most cordially tendering to them our co-operation in the cause of Freedom, and offering our confidence to those who confide in us.

8. *Resolved*, That we do also invite the co-operation of the people of all other States who are disposed to resist the encroachments and the extension of Slavery by all practicable and constitutional means; and in case a National Convention shall be called to consider the subject, we recommend the appointment of two or more delegates from each Congressional district to represent Vermont in such Convention.

9. *Resolved*, That while every supporter of the Nebraska bill has impeached his character for political and personal integrity, the Northern supporters of that measure have added the guilt of blackest treachery to their constituents—and we hereby declare that no such man, whatever be his party affinities, his position or professions, can ever receive our respect, our confidence or our votes.

10. *Resolved*, That to the delegation in Congress from Vermont, to all others, irrespective of party distinctions, and especially to those noble representatives of the South, who have manfully struggled to maintain the public faith inviolate, we acknowledge the debt of gratitude due to faithful public servants and honorable men.

Hon. Alvah Sabin, Representative in Congress from the 3d District in Vermont, was then called for, and addressed the Convention in a most able and acceptable manner.

Hon. W. Weston, Rev. Dr Wheeler, Hon. Anson Allen, and Edward Kirkland, Esq., discussed the resolutions very ably, and they were adopted unanimously and followed by three cheers.

The Committee for making nominations made a report, which was adopted with acclamation and unanimity;

For Governor,

STEPHEN ROYCE,

OF BERKSHIRE.

For Lieut. Governor,

OSCAR L. SHAFTER,

OF WILMINGTON,

For Treasurer,

HENRY M. BATES,

OF NORTHFIELD.

State Central Committee,

JOHN PORTER, Hartford.
JACOB EDGERTON, Rutland.
ROLLA GLEASON, Richmond.
G. F. HOUGHTON, St. Albans.
A. G. ROOT, Bennington.
F. E. WOODBRIDGE, Vergennes.
J. L. BOWLES, Washington.

The following resolutions were offered and passed:—

11. *Resolved*, That we most cordially approve of the nomination of Stephen Royce, for Governor, O. L. Shafter, for Lieutenant Governor, H. M. Bates, for Treasurer; and we pledge ourselves as friends of the Republic, and as citizens of Vermont, who desire the economical administration of our State Government, to do all that we can to secure the election of the candidates this day nominated, and to abide by the Resolutions this day adopted.

12. *Resolved*, That we present our thanks to the Congregational Society of Rutland for the use of their house of worship.

On motion, the State Committee were authorized to fill any vacancy that might occur in the nominations by death or declinations.

On motion the Convention adjourned.

WILLIAM HEBARD, President.

C. H. HAYDEN, CHAS. CUMMINGS, C. W. WILLARD, } Secretaries.

The Purposes of the Propagandists.

Do not fail to read the brief speech by Col. BENTON, on the purposes of the Propagandists. He thinks that there is a great plot in the process of incubation. It may be the enlargement of the area of Slavery by annexation, or by introducing slavery into the territories, and even into states now free—or it may be a dissolution of the Union and the establishment of two Confederacies—one Southern and Slavocratic, and the other Northern and free. The way is open for either: the latter may follow the former, to say the least. We will make a single suggestion, and add an interesting revelation from a Slavocratic organ. The Missouri Compromise stood in the way of introducing Slavery into Nebraska. It has been repealed, on the avowed principle that the people of the territories must be left to introduce slavery, or prohibit it, without the intervention of the federal government. Now be it remembered that the ordinance of 1787 prohibited Slavery in the territory northwest of the Ohio. Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, &c. have come into the Union as free states by virtue of that ordinance. Attempts were made to introduce Slavery, but those attempts were prohibited by federal intervention—i. e. Congress withheld its assent.—Now it is certain that Illinois (for instance) might become a slave state, were not the ordinance of 1787 in the way. May it not be held—*will* it not be,—that the ordinance of 1787, as well as the Missouri Compromise, was abrogated by the Compromise of 1850—and thus the bar to the establishment of Slavery in Illinois be removed? There is little ground to fear, it is true, that any free state will ever introduce slavery; but Congress has begun to *take down the bars*—Slavophobia is prevalent at Washington—and nothing in the way of tyranny would be surprizing in these days. The following article is decidedly interesting:

From the N.Y. Tribune.

The Policy of the Nebraska Leaders.

The following pleasant and suggestive article is from *The Southern Standard*, an Administration paper published at Charleston, South Carolina. It is a frank, bold statement of the policy of the Administration upon the Slavery question, which our readers will do well to look at by way of refreshing themselves. It will amply repay perusal:

"A general rupture in Europe would force upon us the undisputed sway of the Gulf of Mexico and the West Indies, with all their rich and mighty productions. Guided by our genius and enterprise, a new world would rise there, as it did before under the genius of Columbus. With Cuba and St. Domingo, we could control the productions of the tropics, and with them, the commerce of the world, and *with that*, the power of the world. Our true policy is to look at Brazil as the next great slave power, and as the Government that is to direct or license the development of the country drained by the Amazon. Instead of courting England, we should look to Brazil and the West Indies. The time will come when a treaty of commerce an alliance with Brazil will give us the control over the Gulf of Mexico and its border countries, together with the islands, and the consequence of this will place African Slavery beyond the reach of fanaticism, at home or abroad. These two great slave powers now hold more undeveloped territory than any other two Governments, and they ought to guard and strengthen their mutual interests by acting together in strict harmony and concert. Considering our vast resources and the mighty commerce that is about to expand upon the bosom of the two countries, if we act together by treaty we *can not only preserve domestic servitude*, but we can defy the power of the world. With firmness and judgment, we can open up the African slave emigration to the noble regions of the tropics. We can boldly defend this upon the most enlarged system of philanthropy. It is far better for the wild races of Africa themselves. Look at the 3,000,000 in the United States who have had the blessings, not only of civilization but of Christianity. Can any man pretend to say that they would have been better off in the barbarian state of their native wildness; and has not the attempt to suppress, by force, this emigration, increased the horrors of the 'middle passage' ten-fold? The good old Las Casas, in 1519, was the first to advise Spain to import Africans to her colonies, as a substitute for the poor Indians, who, from their peculiar nature, were totally unsuited to bear the labors of slavery. Experince has shown that his scheme was founded in wise and Christian philanthropy. Millions of the black men, yet unborn, will rise up to bless his benevolent memory. The time is coming when we will boldly defend this emigration before the world. The hypocritical cant and whining morality of the latter-day saints will die away before the majesty of commerce, and the power of those vast productions which are to spring full development of the mighty tropical regions in our own hemisphere. If it be mercy to give the grain-growing sections of America to the poor and hungry of Europe, why not open up the tropics to the poor African? The one region is as eminently suited to them as the other is to the white race. There is as much philanthropy in one as the other. We have been too long governed by psalm-singing school-masters from the North. It is time to think for ourselves. The folly commenced in our own Government uniting with Great Britain to declare slave importation piracy. Piracy is a crime on the high seas, arising under the law of nations, and it is as well defined by those laws as murder is at common law. And for two nations to attempt to make that piracy which is not so, under the law of nations, is an absurdity.—You might as well declare it burglary, or arson, or anything else. And we have ever since, by a joint fleet with Great Britain on the coast of Africa, been struggling to enforce this miserable blunder. The time will come that all the islands and regions suited to African Slavery, between us and Brazil, will fall under the control of these two slave powers, in some shape or other, either by treaty or actual possession of either the one Government or the other. And the statesman who closes his eyes to these results, has but a very small view of the great questions and interests that are looming up in the future. In a few years there will be no investments for the two hundred millions, in the annual increase of gold on a large scale, so profitable and so necessary, as the development and cultivation of the tropical regions now slumbering in rank and wild luxurance. If the slaveholding race in these States are but true to themselves, they have a great destiny before them."

The propositions thus set forth are, in brief, says the Tribune:

1. To take Cuba.
2. To conquer St. Domingo and reduce its inhabitants to Slavery.
3. To unite with Brazil and perform the same conquering and enslaving process on all the other West India Islands.
4. To enter into an alliance with Brazil for the establishment and fortification of Slavery throughout South and North America.
5. For this object to develop the Amazon country and take possession of the Gulf of Mexico and all the adjacent tropical regions.
6. To re-open the African slave trade.
7. To boldly defend this scheme upon the "most enlarged system of philanthropy."

Such is the programme of the future proceedings under the new Nebraska dispensation. We trust the reader has carefully perused it, as stated by our Southern cotemporary in the above extract. It is seldom he will find more of what is called "letting the cat out of the bag" in the same compass.—Let him not turn away, doubting or distrusting the correctness of this representation in regard to the designs of the Nebraska dynasty. He may depend upon it, that what is here shadowed forth is no dream and no vagary. It is a faithful picture of what is the fixed and determinate policy of the Nebraska leaders. The conception of this future, we happen to know, is distinct and vivid among the champions of the new dispensation, and they are firmly bent upon its regular and systematic accomplishment.—The Nebraska bill is but the first, and as it has heretofore been regarded, an easy step in this comprehensive plan of Africanizing the whole of the American hemisphere, and establishing Slavery upon what its advocates regard as an impregnable basis.

Does any moderate, conservative, northern man doubt the policy of offering a little resistance to this brilliant system of measures by way-of calling the yeas and nays a few extra times on Nebraska? Perhaps such a very peacable gentleman as Mr. Gerit Smith may hang fire on the proposition, but is there any other northern man whose head and pluck are good and sound, who can retire before this inconceivable pusillanimity of a suggestion that such a course is unwise? We presume not. We do not know for a certainty that Mr Smith occupies the position we assign to him. If he does, all we can say is, that he had better resign his seat at the earliest possible moment, and let his constituents elect somebody in his place who will do his duty among sinners and not go for applying millenium tactics in a body like the House of Representatives at Washington.

This, That and the Other: by Ellen Louise Chandler. Boston, Phillips, Sampson & Co.

The ladies seem to have entered the field of light literature with a determination to wrest it utterly from masculine dominion; and their success is wonderful. The author of this book we infer is young: she brings "only the violets of spring,"—modest, fresh, and most welcome of all. 412 pages. For sale by S. M. Walton.

Martin Merrivale, his X Mark: Boston, Phillips, Sampson & Co.

No. 2 of this popular and beautiful serial has been received, and is for sale by S. M. Walton.

Flora Lindsay: by Mrs. Moodie. New York, De Witt & Davenport.

Mrs. Moodie has long been in high favor, and we commend her new book without hesitation, and without reading also, for it has come to hand at the moment of writing. For sale by Ballou & Loveland.

Mob Violence and The Fugitive Slave Law.

The recent exhibition of mobocracy, in the attempt to rescue an alleged fugitive slave from the hands of the officers in whose keeping he was in pursuance of law, receives, as it deserves, the condemnation of all good, law-abiding citizens every where.—Forcible resistance to law, in a government like ours, cannot be justified for a single moment under any circumstances, however aggravating. Revolution is too powerful an element and too dangerous to be resorted to under a republican government. It is the duty of every citizen claiming the protection of law, to abide by and obey all the laws of his country. Otherwise liberty is exchanged for anarchy, and legal restraints for lawlessness and violence.

But while we cannot justify those restless spirits, who have disgraced themselves and New England by their conduct in attempting by violence to thwart the administration of law, we cannot regard these faults as the only guilty party in the matter. They have received countenance, encouragement and support from a majority of the present Congress. The compromises in favor of freedom have been wantonly assailed and ruthlessly trampled upon by the South and their slaveholding allies at the North, and it is but natural that such an example from a source that ought to be entitled to veneration, should be imitated in other quarters.—If freedom cannot be secure under the Constitution and the laws of the land, it cannot be expected that slavery will escape some severe shocks.

Not in justification of mob law, but as a consideration that should be entitled to great weight when occasions for the display of mob violence are forced upon us, we would urge the change that has been created in public sentiment here in the North by the recent action of the South in abrogating a compromise of their own making. After having received their consideration, and while that of the North was yet in abeyance, they have annulled the contract. It so happens that the North has so far received quite as much benefit as the South from the Compromise of 1850, and we cannot well be blamed by our Southern brethren if we follow the example they have recently set for us. Although the latter compromise measures have still the form of law, they have lost the force to which all law should be entitled. The North will earnestly seek and improve all opportunities for the repeal of every portion of those measures that favor slavery in the least degree. We hope they will offer no violence to the execution of those laws while they remain on the statute-book, but we are quite confident that they will go no farther than the strict letter of the law directs in aiding their execution.

We commend the following from the New York *Times*, as a faithful exposition of the feelings of the North in relation to the matter, as well as a correct statement of our present duties:—

"In 1850 it was alleged that *good faith* to the South required every citizen to aid in the execution of the Fugitive Slave Law.—This reliance exists no longer. This appeal has lost its force. The Slaveholding interest has forfeited all claim to such a plea. It has set the example of violated faith. It has proclaimed, by the high-handed repeal of the oldest and most sacred compact under the Constitution, that such things as Legislative Compromises have no validity;—that it recognizes no obligation of compacts;—that it keeps no faith with Freedom;—that its only law is the law of force, and its only rule of conduct the prosecution of its own schemes, by any and every means which occasion may afford. Nobody in the Free States can any longer feel under any moral obligation to consult the interests or the claims of Slaveholders, in connection with this or any other law. But we owe it *to ourselves* to obey the law,—or, at all events, not to oppose mob violence to its execution. We do not suppose that any man, whose instincts would not incline him to become a slave-driver on a Southern plantation, will volunteer his aid in returning a fugitive slave, or accept and hold an appointment which would make it his duty to do so. But resistance of the law is another thing. It strikes at the basis of society; it involves infinite evils, and can do no good. The successful rescue of a slave does nothing towards repealing the law. It only saves the money which would buy him, while it involves deep disgrace and a loss of moral strength, which will far outweigh the paltry advantage that may be gained. The treatment of Judge Hoar in South Carolina, whither he went on a perfectly legal and legitimate errand, sunk that State into a profound and universal contempt, from which half a century will not redeem her. Massachusetts cannot afford to imitate her example, or to provoke her fate."

Henry Augustus Lake, 8 years of age, was fatally poisoned in New York on Saturday last, by a quantity of brandy administered by a man named Francis Graham, who has been arrested and held for trial.

Mr. Soule's Demand upon Spain.

Whether this gentleman was acting under instructions or not, in the demands said to have been made upon Spain, we are not officially informed. If he were not, he deserves to be dismissed at once from a position for which he never had the least qualification, and in which, unfortunately, he has been but too successful in bringing reproach and ridicule upon the American Government. If, however, he had authority for his conduct, as we are inclined to believe he had, then the Administration merits, not the thanks of the country, but its rebuke.

We are at a loss to conceive how any administration can so far forget what is due to the dignity and character of a great and chivalrous people, as to assume the attitude of a bully towards a weaker power, under any circumstances or for any purpose whatever. That our minister at the court of Madrid has acted in a manner unbecoming the representative of the American Government, and in direct conflict with the wishes and sentiments of our people, is not to be denied, if the substance of his demands and the overbearing tone he adopted in presenting them, have not been entirely misrepresented. To deliberately hunt up pretexts for a quarrel with Spain, and proceed to act upon them in an arbitrary and unusual manner, to make demands of an extravagant and uncommon character, and, in doing so, to employ the tone and language of a bully and a braggart, is overstepping all just and reasonable limits, and prostituting our national character in the face of the whole world.

That the reported demand of an indemnity of $300,000 for the injuries inflicted upon our citizens in the case of the Black Warrior, is grossly exorbitant, and that this demand was made *purposely* exorbitant with the view to a rupture with Spain, and the consequent seizure of Cuba, no one can doubt who has any knowledge of what is customary and proper in negociations of this kind.

Mr. Pierce and his Minister have evidently but little of the manliness and generosity of their countrymen in assuming to bector over a weak and feeble nation. It is not the wish of our people to require of other governments, weak or strong, what they would not submit to themselves. And that we should have instantly and indignantly rejected such demands as have been made upon Spain is entirely certain. We would be justifiable, too, not only in promptly rejecting them, but in chastising the insolence of the government that made them.—*Richmond Whig.*

WASHINGTON, May 28, 1854.

Messrs. James Meacham, John Wheeler, Jared V. Peck, Rufus W. Peckham and Andrew Oliver, Democratic Representatives in Congress from the 1st, 6th, 9th, 10th and 20th Congressional Districts of New York, have issued an address to their constituents, defending their course in opposition to the Nebraska bill. They contend that the transfer of the measure through the House was characterized by the most tyrannous exercise of power. They object to the bill on the ground that there was no immediate necessity for organizing a Territorial Government, there being, according to the last report of the Indian Commissioners, only three white persons in the territory embracing Nebraska and Kansas, in addition to Government officers; that the land is still owned by the wandering tribes of red men; and that the lands cannot be taken without extinguishing the Indian titles; that to extinguish the titles would be to extinguish the tribes, and they do not feel called upon to act in making the machinery that is designed to eradicate them; that the organization of the territories involves great expense and creates a large amount of Executive patronage, and that they are unwilling to increase the one and extend the other; and a still greater objection is found in the fact that the annulment of the Missouri Compromise is a departure from the Platform laid down by the Democratic Convention of 1852, and opens again the agitation which was lulled by the Compromise of 1850.

The address is severe upon the President for his alledged departure from the sentiments expressed in his inaugural address, and also upon the course pursued in relation to those who have opposed the measure in the House and Senate. They say that the passions of the country have been aroused by the President and his advisers, and that discord, confusion, and sectional animosities again threaten to harrass and disturb the peace of the Union. For their own part they are indisposed to follow the authors of this renewed commotion, but prefer to remain where they have ever stood, true to the principles and professions and pledges of the Baltimore Convention, and opposed to disturbing or unsettling so ancient and so beneficial a measure as the Missouri Compromise.

The authors of the address give copious extracts from the opinions of Messrs. Polk, Cass, Douglas, Atchison and Pinkney, to show the great esteem in which the Missouri Compromise has been held by those eminent men previous to the introduction of the Nebraska bill. The address says:

"In voting for this bill, we were called upon to follow the lead of the President in this departure from the Compromise measures of 1850, and, with the most subservient of his creatures, to violate our pledge to adhere to the platform of 1852, and thus reopen the Slavery agitation in its most formidable aspect. This we have refused to do; and we confidently appeal to you, to whom we are shortly to surrender our trust, to say whether we have not in this respect done right. Events daily transpiring constrain us to believe that the annulment of the Missouri Compromise act of 1820, is the first of a series of measures long premeditated and deliberately pursued, having for their object the formation of a great sectional or southern party, of which the present Executive designs to become the leader. In order to win the South and propitiate the favor of her citizens, in addition to the repeal of the prohibition of Slavery north of latitude 36 d 30 m., it is designed to obtain, regardless of expense to the national treasury, additional territory from Mexico. The Gadsden treaty recommended by the President to the Senate for confirmation, stipulated to pay Santa Anna the extravagant sum of twenty millions of dollars for a mere fragment of territory, to supply additional resources to the slave States. This treaty, modified in many essential particulars has been returned to Mexico, and is now in progress of negotiation.

"In pursuance of the same political scheme, it was determined at an early day, to acquire Cuba, utterly reckless of consequences. To that end, a gentleman was selected to represent this country at the Court of Madrid, whose appointment occasioned alarm in the minds of those who were acquainted with his disposition, manners and political sentiments. Whether he attempted to open negotiations for the peaceful acquisition of Cuba is not known—but certain it is that no success attended his efforts, if any were made.

"The seizure of the steamer Black Warrior, by the authorities of Havana, afforded Mr. Soule, as we are credibly informed, the opportunity to address a communication to the Spanish Government, so insolent in tone, so peremptory in manner, and couched in language of a character so insulting as to render a compliance with his demands in the highest degree improbable. Whether this affair will be adjusted, or whether we are to be precipitated into a war, are problems that time alone can solve. That no effort will be made, directly or indirectly, at the conquest of Cuba and its incorporation into the Union as additional slave territory, admits, we think, of little doubt. A war with Spain and her allies (England and France) on this question would place in instant and immediate jeopardy millions of dollars of the hard earnings of the people of the Atlantic States, invested in ships and their cargoes, and in the peaceful pursuits of their commerce, and all in order to advance the personal objects of political traders.

"Under such grave and portentious circumstances, we are unwilling to contribute by our votes or otherwise, any aid or assistance to those selfish and destructive schemes, although, under a different state of things, we would regard the annexation of Cuba with decided favor; and however calamitous a war might be, when satisfied that the rights of our citizens have been violated and redress demanded in vain, we would enforce justice at whatever hazard.

"We have reached the conclusion of our task, with pain and deep regret that an occasion should have arisen which rendered it necessary for us to address you in the manner we have done. Conscious of the rectitude of our conduct, we entertain no fears that you disapprove of it, or condemn it."

The address concludes with an extract from the message of President Pierce to the present Congress, in which he says:

"That this repose is to suffer no shock during my official term, if I have the power to avert it, those who placed me here may be assured."

The Springfield, Mass., *Republican*, has always been ranked among the Conservative journals of the country. What it says thousands feel; and when it counsels "Death to Dough-Faces" it is because that cry is in the hearts of the people. In anticipation of the passage of the Nebraska swindle, the *Republican* asks:—

"What then? First and foremost, an unrelenting war in the free States upon all Northern men who have participted in the deed, or who have apologized for or defended it. Death to Dough-faces! This shall be our rallying cry. Let all true northern men unite to wage the war of extermination against those who have sold their honor, violated the plighted faith of the nation, and outraged the convictions of the people, to purchase a mess of pottage! Let us see if there is not a North at last. When that is secured, wrested from political corruption, and planted upon the honest popular will, then can we study our duty to the Union and to slavery. But let the North be freed first."

Honor to Vermont.—A correspondent of the Plattsburgh (locofoco) *Republican*, elated by the result of the Saltus case, after announcing the Chancellor's decision, goes off in Hail Columbia style, thus:—

"All hail Vermont! The spirit of her immortal founders is in her yet! The uncompromising opposition of other days to oppression, when Allen's bench seal applied to the naked humanity of New York sheriffs (excuse me for mentioning it) impressed upon them due appreciation of equity—that same indomitable opposition to over-trumping tyranny out-crops again among the Green Mountains. Oh then whig all over, though all the world were loco foco! Friend of the slave, tho' all lands and peoples besides slumbed him! Oh then backbone of old Puritan persistence—all hail! We honor thee to our heart's center; not because we first drew breath among thy rocks, and the bones of those we love are cherished in thy bosom, but because though office and emolument, though "all h—l oppose," thy reverence for law, "the Higher Law," is a living power to thy mountain tops, and to the outermost hair's breadth of thy boundaries!"

The President's organs in the North and West assert perpetually that, should the bill pass, the Territorial Legislatures will have the power to *prohibit or exclude Slavery.*—The organs of the slave power in the South positively assert that this is false, that, should the bill pass, the Constitution carries Slavery theoretically into the Territories; slaveholders may carry their slaves there, and the Territorial Legislatures may and ought to protect them, but will have no power to prohibit the slave relation, or exclude the slaves.

Mr. Mace, to expose this contradiction in doctrine, this fraud in the bill, this duplicity among its supporters, moved to insert in the first section:

"And the Territorial Legislature shall have power to admit or exclude Slavery at any time by law."

Here was an opportunity for the northern and southern supporters of the bill to come to a plain understanding and state precisely what they meant. What did they do?—They voted down the amendment—66 to 76; that is, they *voted against the Territorial Legislature with power to admit or exclude Slavery.*

Again they were tested by Mr. Fuller, of Maine, an Old Line Democrat, a friend of the Administration, desirous of acting with the majority if possible. He moved to insert:

"And the Territorial Legislatures shall have the power to establish or exclude Slavery, as to them shall seem proper."

As a National Democrat, he said, he would like to vote for the bill, and if his amendment should prevail he would do so. If it should not, he would vote against the bill as at present advised.

This was going a great way—but the majority, in obedience to orders, voted down his proposition, 91 to 75. What was the plain language of that vote? We, the supporters of the bill, *will not grant the Territorial Legislatures power to establish or exclude Slavery.* And yet, northern members voting for this bill, will go home to their constituents and tell them that it confers this very power on the Territorial Legislatures, knowing all the while that had they incorporated such a power in the bill, not a southern man on the floor of Congress would have supported it! If the "sovereign people" suffer themselves to be imposed upon by such trickery as this, they will give strong evidence of their unfitness for self-government, and bring discredit upon Democratic institutions.—*National Era.*

The sectional storms of the past will be remembered but as "the gentle play of summer zephyrs," in contrast with the tempest which the Repeal of the Missouri Compromise will excite. It will open to their utmost widths, the flood-gates of "agitation," and awaken a spirit which will be allayed not by annihilation of the cowardly traitors of the North who will have aided in the consummation of the infamy—although that will be done;—it will demand the demolition of every barrier which repealable statutes have thrown around the institution of Slavery.

No evidence has ever yet been furnished in Congress that "there is a North." The mass of Northern Representatives have seemed content to be "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for Slavery. But this last aggression—involving more of Punic faith and infamy than any of its predecessors—has warmed the cold blood of our People; and hereafter, Massachusetts will find plenty of backers in her war-cry of "Death to Dough-faces." If this bill pass, *there will be a North*; and that North will be as relentless in its war for Justice, Liberty and Human Rights. The South has thrown down gage of Battle, and the North has taken it up. Now, let God help the Right!—*Albany Evening Journal.*

Outrage and Excitement near Xenia.—On Thursday of last week, a man named McLeod, who had been stopping in and about Xenia for a few days, and who is represented as being a disreputable person, left that town in a hurry and drove towards Selma. A few miles out he overtook a colored man whom he suspected as being a fugitive slave, and asked him to get in and ride to the next cross roads. The negro thanked him and got in the buggy, but at the first farm house McLeod said he must feed his horse, and persuaded the negro to wait.—McLeod went in the house, and succeeded in making a bargain with the farmer to help in securing the supposed slave for half the reward. The negro was invited into a room to eat, was siezed, tied with ropes, and placed in the buggy to be driven towards Cedarville on the Railroad. The man who assisted, and his son, accompanied McLeod. After proceeding about a mile or two the negro broke his rope and then broke for the woods, chased by all three of the party.—The old man overtook the negro, when the latter turned and dealt a blow so powerfully that it broke the arm of his pursuer, but he was soon after caught, beaten and tied into the buggy again. Before they had proceeded much farther the negro broke the cords a second time, and had nearly escaped, when McLeod grappled with him, and, the others coming up, a fight ensued, in which the negro was beaten until he fell dead.

The party placed the corpse upright against an oak tree at some distance from the road, and fled. The body was discovered, and on Saturday the murderers were arrested, when the frightened son of the farmer confessed to the circumstances above narrated. The three culprits are now lying in Xenia jail. The excitement in the surrounding country is intense.—*Cincinnati Com., Monday.*

"Massa says, kin you pay dis bill?"—"Your master is in a great hurry—I am not going to run away." "No, but I golly, ole massa's gwine to run away heself."

Congress.

WEDNESDAY, May 31.

SENATE.—Mr. Badger presented the proceedings of the North Carolina Convention, relative to the improvement of Cape Fear river.

Mr. Adams' resolution directing enquiry as to granting a pension to the widow of Mr. Batchelder, killed in Boston, on Friday, was adopted.

The vetoed Insane Land bill was discussed.

Mr. Hunter defended the veto, contending that the bill was unconstitutional.

Mr. Foot spoke in favor of the bill, and the subject was then postponed.

The Senate went into Executive session, and then adjourned.

HOUSE.—A bill was introduced providing for the survey and sale of the public lands in the Territory of Kansas, and establishing a land office therein. Referred.

The House then went into Committee on the Pacific bill.

Mr. Perkins, of La., spoke mainly in reply to the manifesto of the New York Hards, defending the Administration, and Mr. Soule from some of the aspersions therein contained, and closing with an argument in support of the constitutionality of the proposed government aid to the bill.

Messrs. Peckham and Maurice, signers of the address, replied, defending the propositions of the document.

A message was here received from the President, stating that yesterday he approved and signed the Nebraska bill.

Mr. Smith, of Va., also spoke on the address of the New York Hards, denouncing it as a deliberate attempt to injure, deeply and vitally, the Democratic party, and wishing it to be distinctly understood that gentlemen who signed that paper are no longer held as part and parcel of that party. Adj.

THURSDAY, June 1.

There was no quorum present in either House today, and both adjourned over to Monday.

TUESDAY, June 6

SENATE