

FELICIANA DEMOCRAT.

EDITED BY A SPECIAL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE.

CLINTON, LA.

Saturday Morning, January 5, 1856.

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

N.B. Yearly advertisements are past due.

We are indebted to the Hons. John Sidel, and Thos. G. Davidson, for late Washington city and northern papers.

A nominating election will be held at the Democratic Club Room, in Clinton, on Monday next, to select a candidate for Justice of the Peace, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of R. C. Carman.

The polls will be open from 10 o'clock A. M. to 2 o'clock P. M.

SOUTHERN SONS, AND NORTHERN PREJUDICES.

The tenacity with which the human mind is known to hold on to first impressions, and the certain bias such impressions give to the character and conduct of each individual in after life are philosophical truths, that need only to be stated, to be admitted.

These truths established, and their effect foreseen, how does it happen that our southern people, send their sons to the north to be educated in schools where they are constantly taught that slavery is a sin in the sight of God, and a great moral, social, and political evil. — The people of the slave-holding states must awake from their mistaken course in this respect. This doctrine is a false doctrine, which tell us that slavery is either a sin or an evil. On the contrary it is a blessing to the master and the slave. The slave is not fit for freedom, and never can be, from the very nature of his physical, moral, and intellectual condition. He is not susceptible of sufficient improvement for self-government. He needs the care, protection, and direction of the Caucasian race, to save him from himself. By this wise provision of providence, the poor African in this country, subject to the control and government of the white man is the happiest portion of our population. It only subjects him to enough labor to keep his mind properly employed, and to certain wholesome restraints that are beneficial to his moral, and physical welfare. The negro is of an inferior race, and is wholly unfit to associate with the whites, except as a slave. This fact has been so often proven by the condition of the free negroes in the northern states, and the Islands of St. Domingo, and Jamaica, that every man of reflection should at once be convinced. When these facts are considered, and the condition of the African in his native country is understood who is not prepared to say he is a thousand times better off as a slave in this land of christian privileges, and benevolent associations protected by government and law, than to be free here, or back in his native lands. The rights of the slave, under the guardian spirit of our laws, are sought to be protected, and are constantly undergoing legislative examination, to make them perfect as human power can attain. Such being the true state of the case, why should the southern people send their sons north, to imbibe notions and prejudices, which in all probability will last them through life, inimical to the best interests of the master and the slave? Let us have our own literature, foster our own schools and build up our southern colleges. This we can do, and duty to ourselves, imperatively demands that we should lose no time in carrying it into effect. No books should be taught in our schools, that are not entirely free from abolition sentiments. Why should southern fathers patronize northern schools and colleges, when there are so many noble institutions of the kind at the south? Do their children receive better educations, or become more useful citizens, because they receive and finish their education at Cambridge, Yale and Dartmouth colleges, instead of the Virginia University, old William and Mary, or Columbia, and our southern colleges generally? To affirm such a proposition would subject the person to the charge of insanity? Yet the example of many go far to establish the superiority of northern over southern places of learning in the public mind. It is time to put a stop to such mistaken policy. Will the south awake?

POLITICAL DELUSION.

Junius in his celebrated letter to the King, remarked, "when a man is determined to believe, the very absurdity of the thing confirms him in his faith." How strikingly does the force of this remark apply to the course of the know nothing party in this country in the time of their prosperity. No reasoning however sound, no statement of facts however true, nor conclusions however justly drawn from legitimate premises, seemed to have the slightest influence in turning them aside from the plan chalked out for the followers of "Sam" to pursue.

They had sworn to be governed by the decision of a majority, and to prescribe certain classes, and so long as they remained members of the order, they felt conscientiously bound to submit and obey. While under the delusion, that for a time pervaded the judgments of many of our most honorable and worthy citizens both whigs, and democrats, reason and argument, appeared to have lost all power over their minds; but thanks to the never tiring energies of the democratic party throughout the Union, and the potent power of truth over error, that delusion has been dispelled, and men, once more think, and reason about political affairs as in days gone by. No sooner have men been relieved from the obligations they were under while members of the order, than they have been astonished at themselves, that they could ever have been so taken in. To all such we say go, and sin no more. We freely forgive you, and welcome you into the ranks of the democracy as worthy brothers, entitled to all the privileges of the most favored amongst us. "To err is human to forgive divine." — Democracy has no punishments for its erring children, save that godly sorrow which is the natural result of a consciousness of having done wrong. It has no penalties except such as are self-imposed, by those who go astray worshipping strange Gods, and become convinced of their error. It has but one object; that of the country's good; but one aim; the happiness of the greatest number of the people. It seeks the elevation of no man, except for the promotion of sound political principles, and the advancement of the public weal. Men are but instruments in its hands, to work out the great problem of self-government.

A GOOD OMEN.

In the last American Patriot, we are pleased to see an editorial recommending the southern know nothings in Congress to vote for the Hon. W. A. Richardson, of Illinois for speaker, now that Mr. Wheeler had withdrawn his name from among the candidates. This we look upon as a good sign, which argues well for the future. It not only discloses the fact that the democracy of the south will have the aid and assistance of southern know nothings on the great question which vitally concerns us, but is an acknowledgment, that the democracy of the whole union, are truly national in their organization, worthy to be trusted in preference to northern know nothings, abolitionists, and free-soilers, who have been banded together, in the House of Representatives to shape the legislation of Congress to suit their unholy purposes. This is only one instance in many, where the know nothing press, south, is speaking out in relation to the course political events are taking in that body. They now began to see, what the democracy everywhere predicted is coming to pass. Southern know nothings with national sentiments, now are no longer left in the dark with regard to the course that duty and a proper sense of southern rights require them to pursue. To act with their northern brethren is to surrender their constitutional rights, and their self-respect, to appease the fanatical spirit of northern aggression, upon the institutions of the south. They have to choose between subscribing to their own degradation, as co-equal, political partners in the privileges which the constitution was intended to confer, by its illustrious framers, or to cut loose and unite with the democrats, who subject them to no such alternative. They know that every interest in the nation is safe under the democratic rule. They know that the country has prospered under democratic administrations, more than that of any party. If southern know nothings ever had any doubts with regard to the truly national position the democracy of the north would take in regard to the action of Congress on the subject of slavery, they have been dispelled by the noble stand they have taken in regard to the election of speaker, since Congress convened? If southern know nothings ever had any hopes of their party north, becoming national, those hopes have been destroyed by the action of the Cincinnati convention, which has declared that no slave state shall ever be admitted into this union unless the Missouri Compromise is restored. This is the substance of their resolutions. Here the issue is distinctly made that the know nothings of the southern states, must acknowledge themselves not upon an equal footing with their northern brethren, or in other words, that the people of the south, must agree to have no right to go north of a certain geographical line with their property, while no such restriction is put upon the people of the north. Southern know nothings cannot fail to see, that the doctrines of the Kansas Nebraska bill, are the only safe grounds for the south to stand upon. A state shall have the right to come into the Union, with or without slavery as it may choose. Is there a southern man of any political party who would be so lost to his own sense of duty and patriotism as to admit, that there is any inequality between the

citizen who holds slaves or the citizen who does not? The Constitution acknowledges them as equal, and he is a dastard who would not uphold it with his life's blood if it be attempted to be desecrated in such a sacrilegious way. It has been well said by a southern whig paper, that if this action of the Cincinnati convention, is the greatest extent to which northern know nothingism can nationalize itself, our American friends south had as well "hang up the fiddle and bow."

FROM WASHINGTON.

H. OF REPRESENTATIVES, Dec. 21, 1855.
Dear Sir—I arrived here on the 18th, finding this house in the greatest possible confusion; there is no speaker yet; my judgment, from what I have seen, is that Banks will be elected speaker, and for the first time, in the history of our country, we will have a sectional organization of the H. of Representatives, based upon a principle which declares openly for the destruction of our rights. This organization will be effected in this manner: there are 107 black republican know nothings, voting for Banks, who is a know nothing abolitionist; there are 76 reliable national democrats and the balance of the house, are southern K. N's, or national Americans, as they call themselves. They dare not vote for Banks, and at this moment are afraid to vote for the plurality rule. But a Mr. Cox of Kentucky finding that to question our northern democratic members, would prove to the people, that the northern democracy was sound and firm upon the principle of the Kansas Nebraska bill, and true to the south, and seeing that nothing could be made by catechising them, this gentleman, calls on Lewis Campbell, and other abolition know nothings to prove the unsoundness of the free states democrats.—How will the people of the south take this? A southern man undertakes to prove by such rank abolitionists as Campbell, the unsoundness of the northern democracy, they voting steadily for Richardson, whose whole history in Congress is embodied by his abolition enemies in the words "Southern dough face," whilst they are voting for Fuller of Pa., who defeated Wright, a democrat of Pa., because he voted to repeal the Mo. Compromise and for the Kansas Nebraska bill, Mr. Fuller being opposed to both these measures. And now you begin to see how the thing is to be done; there is no choice of parties in the free states as between know nothings and black republicans, enough of the national K. Ns, will vote for the plurality rule to carry it, they will then fall back on Banks for speaker, and let the 107 black republicans elect him, and then the south will be asked to condemn the democratic party for this state of things. Mark the prediction. I fully believe that there is not one man among the K. N. members who does not well understand this question just as I have given it to you.

I will keep you advised by forwarding the debates. I particularly desire you to read the speeches of Jones of Pa., Marshall of Ky., the admirable address of Cadwalader of Pa., and Cobb, of Ga.

Believe me very sincerely &c., &c.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The message was read in the Senate to-day. President Pierce states that he was delayed the delivery of his annual communication to the two Houses until this time, in consequence of the non-organization of the House of Representatives, but that his convictions in regard to his duty will not permit him to delay any longer in giving to Congress information in regard to the state of affairs in the Union, and in recommending such measures as he judges necessary or expedient.

The Message commences with a review of Central American affairs, giving a full history of the late transactions in Central America in particular. The President next alludes to the late troubles in Kansas, and though he refuses to recount the difficulties he says that the people of the territory of Kansas, must be protected in the exercise of their rights without any interference on the part of the people of any other state, and recommends the early attention of congress to the subject. He eulogizes popular sovereignty, giving a cursory history of the formation of the Union, and expatiates on State Rights with particular reference to slavery and the fugitive slave law. He regards the agitation of the slavery question as dangerous to the durability of the Union, and regrets to see some of the states disregard the constitutional organization and refuse to obey the laws of Congress.

He denies that the south has obtained advantages over the north!

On the subject of Federal government, he proceeds to refer to the ordinances of 1787, and also to the acquisition of Louisiana, to illustrate the balance of power between freedom slavery, after reviewing which he comes down to the annexation of Texas, after a short review of which he passes to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and the adherent acts, and goes on to argue that the south has gained no more than what properly belongs to her.

—He gives an elaborate defence of the Nebraska Bill, and indignantly denies that it was a breach of faith on the part of the south.

Grave questions are pending, says the President, between ourselves and some foreign powers, the most important of which is with Great Britain, and arising out of the Nicaragua question. The President states that it was the understanding of the government of the United States, in making the treaty, (the Clayton Bulwer treaty,) that all the states at that time asked, at the present time forming the Central American Republic, would thenceforth enjoy a complete independence, and that both the contracting powers engaged equally, and to the same effect, for the present, and for the future, that if either of said contracting powers had at the time of the recognition of the treaty, any claim or right in Central America, that by said treaty such claim was unreservedly relinquished by the stipulations of said convention, and that no dominion will hereinafter exist in any of the ports of Central America by either Great Britain or the United States.

This country consented to restrictions in regard to a certain region of country where we had a specific and peculiar interest only, and entirely upon the conviction that like restrictions were in the same sense obligatory upon Great Britain, and but for this understanding, said treaty would never have been completed by the United States.

For the Feliciana Democrat.

Mr. Editor.—Will you permit a lady who wishes to make a few comments in regard to the Thespian Society of Clinton, to find a corner of your paper, and to notice an apparent slight, offered to one of her own sex—one who has graced our provincial boards, in a manner that would have done honor to the palatial establishments of our metropolis.

The Drama is one of the most instructive of schools, a severe castigat of error, whether in private life, or seated on kingly thrones.—It shows us the poor pedant, in "Dr. Pangloss" the gems of native manly honor, in "Claude Melnotte" and young "Norval." And where can we be so impressively taught, that "the way of the transgressor is hard," as in the wretched life and dreadful death of a "Richard the Third" and other of the tragic heroes of Shakespeare, Schiller, Goethe, Byron and other literary celebrities? What but the Drama can unmask the hypocrisy of a "Mawworm" or an "Aminadab Sleek"? It presents in life pictures, a view of the human passions, thrown upon the stage, with all the accompaniments of Poetry, Music, Painting and Architecture.

But we did not sit down to eulogize the Drama, but to remonstrate with our excellent friend of "The Patriot," against such unfair treatment of our gentle sex, in noticing two of the gentlemen members of the Society, in laudatory terms, and skipping past the noble "Lady Randolph" and "Anna," without even a cold mention. What encouragement will be given to any other lady to become a devotee of "Thespis," when those who already so gracefully adorn the boards, are passed by, unnoticed by the supposed-to-be-manufacturers of public opinion—"the gentlemen of the Press"! We are gravely informed by the "Patriot," that—"The Tragedy of 'Douglass' and the Comedy of 'The Omnibus' were the pieces acted; the first was played well, but the latter moved the risibles of the auditory to such an extent, as to bring down thunders of applause, and shouts of laughter from the whole house. So, so, my patriotic friend, it is only necessary for our Thespian ladies and gentlemen to put on the "Fool's cap and bells" and play the buffoon, to be appreciated in Clinton. While I love to laugh as well as any of your readers, I cannot admire the taste of the critic, who passes by without comment a splendid Five act Tragedy, with all its magnificent poetry, its beautiful delineations of character, and fine scenery, and throws his powers of criticism away upon a petty farce. It seems to me to show similar good judgment to that of the visitor at St. Peter's at Rome, or the cathedral at Rheims who should praise in his printed book of travels the grim Satyr's heads which crown the great arches, and which are at variance with the strict rules of the art,—and pass by, unnoticed, the grandeur of the edifice itself, its marble pillars, and its massive doorway—or, to that of the idle spectator who marks the Queen's shoeties, and neglects to mention her character, her appearance, or her palace. As to praising a farce in preference to the classic drama, to quote Hamlet, "though it make the unskillful laugh, it cannot but make the judicious grieve; the censure of one must in your allowance, overweigh a whole theatre of others." Such praise nothing but the grave digger in Hamlet, the witches in Macbeth, and the huck basket of Falstaff in the Merry Wives of Windsor; or, dwell upon the little goats in the foreground of Claude Lorraine's magnificent landscapes, whilst they pass unnoticed the breadth of tone and depth of light and shade on which the artist has spent the treasures of his skill. But, Sir Editor of the Patriot, I do not wish to give you a "Caudling" before your time.—Knowing by repute of your amiability of disposition, and affability of temper, I will not be unkind or ungenerous; but my dear sir, it does provoke me to see you so deliberately sit down in your sanctum, and "do those things which you ought not to have done, and leave undone those things which you ought to have done." Were I disposed to be revengeful, I would wish you as a New Year's accompaniment, an exacting maiden for a wife, whose every smile must be met with a corresponding favor—every gracious condescension rewarded with an elegant cashmere, or a more antique or—a "perfect love of a bonnet."

ALBA ROSA.

EXTRAVAGANCE.

We would invite the attention of all our readers, to the following able article from the New Orleans Courier. The subject is one that touches the pockets, but has a powerful influence upon the morals of the people. The remarks are eminently judicious and well timed, because truthful and necessary. Extravagance is one of the greatest curses of the present day. Read, reflect, and resolve to do better, at this fitting and appropriate period, the advent of the New Year.

As dark as the political state of this country now presents, with black republicanism urging its treason in the North, and with secret political societies threatening mischief in every quarter, the social state of the country is scarcely less discouraging.

There can be no disguising the fact, that immorality of every kind is rapidly increasing. Journals from every section teem with details of crimes of all descriptions, which seem to show that all the scoundrels in the land are striving to outvie each other in rascality. Laws are losing their protective and restraining power; time honored principles are ignored; institutions designed for public benefits are perverted to subserve the avaricious schemes of speculators; examples of infidelity are being so frequent as to shake the confidence necessary in the transaction of business; marriages are dissolved on trifling pretences, and societies for the promotion of universal license are tolerated.

Among the prominent vices of the day, that of extravagance does not appear to meet with its due share of attention, nor to receive deserved censure. But to an attentive and observing foreigner, this would show itself at once to be our great national vice, drawing many others in its train. We see evidence of it wherever we turn our eyes. The rich, whose wealth enables them to imitate the absurdities of European aristocracy, are the most to blame for setting a bad example to their poor neighbors. They may themselves be able to pay for all their luxuries without directly harming any one, but the indulgence in extravagance, resulting, as may easily be proved, in injury to others, is immoral, if it does not deserve the harsher epithet of dishonest.

But, we may be asked, "would you restrain the wealthy from using their wealth as they choose?" By no means. The law gives to them the use of their own, but still we may express the wish that they were endowed with so nice a sense of propriety, so correct a notion of morals, and such an enlarged public spirit as to refrain from an extravagance which militates directly against public morals and is undermining the power and stability of the country.

This ostentatious extravagance, in houses, equipages, dress, and sumptuous fare, by those who can make the necessary outlay without inconvenience, has its numerous imitators amongst those who are obliged to resort to dishonest dealings in order to provide the means of making a similar display. While European princes are aped by our own people of fashion, the latter have their mimics who will sacrifice anything in order to obtain the means of useless indulgence. Every day we hear of some merchant who is obliged to compromise with his creditors by paying them only a small portion of his debts. In nine-tenths of such cases, the failure will be found to originate from the extravagance of his family, who are trying to ape the bad example of their aristocratic neighbors. Extravagance is at the bottom of all those immense swindling schemes in which the baseness of robbery is sought to be covered up under the mantle of financeeering or stockjobbing, while the brilliancy of the plotting usually suffers to cover up the guilt of the criminal. Extravagance is at the bottom of all those disgraceful struggles for favors from our government and of all the plans laid to rob the public treasury. On the other hand there is not one low thief in fifty but steals to enable him to indulge in extravagance.

Take the abandoned females who throng our cities, and it will be found in most instances that the adoption of their loathsome course of life is the result of an immoderate passion for ostentatious dress, in imitation of the members of "fashionable society" of their own sex who flaunt in their gaudy trappings with little more taste than themselves. But the fashions must be followed, at whatever cost of virtue or honesty.

Take the case of those clerks who rob their employers, the few that are discovered out of the many which are never detected, and the rascality will be found to originate in a desire for extravagant indulgence in dress, jewelry, horses, gaming, or something worse—all, however, in imitation of their employers and families, who expend, perhaps, five times as much as they need. Can we exculpate the merchant from all blame under such circumstances?

There can be no approximate estimate of the vast amount of misery created by this baneful propensity of our people. The means, which in ten thousand instances would suffice for health and comfort, are frittered away in ornaments or other things