

FELICIANA DEMOCRAT.

EDITED BY A SPECIAL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE.

CLINTON, LA.

Saturday Morning, March 8, 1856

The Rev. Messrs. BULETT and ELLETT will preach in the Episcopal Church, on this evening, at early candle light; also, on to-morrow (Sunday), at 11 o'clock, a. m., and again in the evening, at early candle light.

THE BRITISH PERIODICALS.—We insert to-day, the advertisement of the publisher of these valuable reprints. It will be seen that they have made arrangements to procure the advance sheets of these publications, by which they are enabled to furnish them at a much earlier day than heretofore. No one who is desirous of being well informed on the great European questions of the day, should be without these valuable magazines. To use the words of an exchange, there is "no reading so well adapted to once to liberalize and to inform, to discipline and excite the mind, as that of these leading periodicals. The Edinburgh Review continues to furnish the most brilliant critical and biographical essays; the Quarterly is the ablest conservative journal extant; the Westminster the clearest advocate of liberalism; the North British Review combines literary excellence with evangelical sentiment, and Blackwood yields its modicum of racy fiction and learned commentary as richly as ever. Versed in the contents of these unrivalled journals, the intelligent reader is prepared to discuss the merits of the last famous book, and the mooted point in politics and science; he is provided with fresh and reasonable intellectual aliment, and "poised up" in the signs of the times, in the world of thought.

OMISSION.—In the published proceedings of the Democratic meeting of the 23d ult., the names of several of the delegates appointed from the 3d ward, were inadvertently omitted, viz. Alfred Hazard, E. Scott, T. Cason, and J. Worthy, Jr.

Wm. H. Garland, the K. N. city treasurer, has been proved to be a defaulter, to an amount of \$200,000. He made an attempt to run away, but was arrested at the Balize, and brought back to the city, where he was committed to the Parish prison.

KEEP IT BEFORE THE PEOPLE.

Number of members of Congress,..... 233
Number of Democrats,..... 75
Number of Anti-Democrats,..... 156
And this anti-Democratic party took two months to organize the House, and at last elected a Massachusetts Abolitionist, speaker, and an anti-Nebraskaite, Clerk.

THE KANSAS CONTESTED ELECTION.

The first net in the Kansas drama in the House of Representatives was played out on yesterday, says the Union of the 23d ult. After two days' labor, the resolution from the Committee of Elections, asking for power to send for persons and papers to be used in the contested election from Kansas, was re-committed, with instructions to report the reason for such a procedure.

Gov. Reeder had given Gen. Whitfield notice of his intention to contest his seat several months ago, but down to this time he has taken no proof on which to sustain his claim to the seat. After this long delay, he now desires that commissioners be appointed to go to Kansas to take the proof which, under the law, he could and should have taken months ago.

This was so transparent a dodge, and disclosed so clearly that the real object is not to have a speedy settlement of the contest, but to procrastinate it for purposes of continued agitation, that it is strange that even black republicans undertake to sustain so absurd a proceeding.

The discussion, however, has not been without its benefits. It has made palpable two important points; first, that Gov. Reeder's pretensions to a seat are so absurd that his own friends are not prepared to meet the issue; and, second, it has shown that it is the policy and the purpose of abolitionism to keep alive the Kansas excitement for political ends connected with the approaching presidential election.

It matters nothing to the black republicans that they are involving the country in an expense of hundreds of thousands of dollars, and depriving Kansas of a representative in Congress; with them these are small matters compared with the importance of keeping up the agitation. The country will appreciate the earnest and persevering exertions of the national men of the House in opposition to this abolition movement. They have been successful thus far, and we hope they will continue to be so.

The New York Express makes the following reluctant admission in regard to the true character of the Philadelphia Know Nothing Convention:

"No AMERICANS—ALL AFRICANS.—We are pained to see that in Philadelphia to day the Americans have already caught the African distemper, and are sick of it, of course. They had better take the yellow fever."

The Know Nothings of Connecticut have embodied in their platform the declaration that the Missouri Compromise must be restored. What a beautiful National party the Know Nothing faction is!

THE PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE.

The coming Presidential contest is pregnant with consequences of fearful interest to the people of this Republic. The Black republicans have elected their issue. It is abolitionism against and over the Constitution. Already the preliminaries of that struggle are to be witnessed in the territory of Kansas, and the New York Tribune is open and impudently advocating resistance to law, and calling upon the monied Abolitionists of the East and the North to send into that territory cargoes of Sharp's rifles, by means of which officers of the law may be intimidated or murdered, if they attempt to discharge the duties of their stations. The imminence of the danger that threatens the Union of these states may be judged from the tone of the Proclamation of the President. On this, as on all other occasions when General Pierce has been called upon to act, he has been guided but by one light, and that is the Constitution. He now holds up that sacred instrument to the view of those wicked and misguided men who are violating every principle of justice, and while pointing out the error of their course warns them of the consequences that will follow if they persist in it. The doctrines laid down in this special communication, like those enunciated in his Annual Message, and that upon another portion of the Kansas difficulty, are such as will command the approbation of the conservative citizens in all sections of the Union. The constitutional and legal authorities of the territory are to be vindicated and all interference with the just and due administration of law, whether by persons residing in the territory, near its borders, or in the remote States, rebuked as subversive of all right and justice and a direct violation of the constitution of the United States. The tone of the Proclamation is commanding and statesmanlike. It does not discriminate between offenders. All unlawful combinations against the constituted authorities of the territory are denounced, and their originators and abettors justly stigmatized as enemies to the peace and perpetuity of the Union. As a starting point in this contest, the President has set forth in bold, unmistakable language, the great Democratic doctrine of popular sovereignty—the right of the people of the territories to manage their own affairs, subject only to that supervising power which is to be found in a strict construction of the Constitution. Let the people of Kansas settle their own difficulties in that way which the law prescribes, and there will be no disturbance. But when Aid-Societies are established, and the doctrine advocated and acted upon of sending bands of men armed with Sharp's Rifles into a territory, for the avowed purpose of interfering in its organization in a hostile, bloody manner, what can be anticipated but anarchy, riot and misrule. Against this monstrous attack upon the principles of free government the President protests, and calmly but firmly avows his intention to vindicate the constitution and the laws, by all the power placed at his disposal by virtue of his office as President of the United States.

In this scheme of the Black Republicans is fore-shadowed the principle upon which they intend to found the Presidential issue. It is to elect a Northern President, on a geographical division, and thus divide the Union into two opposing factions. The New York Tribune, in exulting over the election of Mr. Banks as speaker of the House, thus alludes to the Presidential struggle:—

"The first great victory attained, at least within the memory of the living, by freedom over slavery, cannot fail to have great results. We look upon it as the commencement of a new era in our history. If a speaker can be and in spite of a strong cohort of northern chosen without the aid of a single southern vote doughfaces, avowed and secret, why may not a President be chosen in like manner? The North is no longer a terra incognita which mocks the efforts of political navigators to find it. It proves at last, to be firm land—a stand point whence it is possible to leap into the Speaker's chair—why not into the President's?"

This is the issue the Democracy has presented to them in the coming election for a President. It is Abolitionism and Sectionalism, armed interference with the rights of the people of a territory to manage their own home questions against the doctrine of popular sovereignty, the supremacy of the Constitution, the Union of the states, and the just and Constitutional rights of each member of the Confederacy. Fortunately our pathway has been cleared of all obstructions that might embarrass us in the race. The Annual and special Messages of the President have laid down a platform of principles so truly Democratic, conservative and catholic, that even the enemies of the party have not dared to attack their arguments. While the power and sacredness of the Union has been most sedulously guarded, rights of the states have suffered no eclipse. Local feelings and prejudices have found no lodgment in those masterly defenses of the Constitution which have emanated from the pen of our wise and

prudent Chief Magistrate. He emphatically knows "no North no South, no West," in the discharge of his duties. The Union in all its length and breadth, with all its interests, is the single star guiding his course, and hence it needs no change of position to enable the party to march on in the good old Democratic path. But another point in our favor is the action of the Democratic minority in Congress during the contest for speaker. That Spartan band presented a united front. Meeting in caucus at the commencement of the session, they put forth a plain, concise platform of National principles, nominated their candidate for speaker, and thus added strength and solidity to the Democracy of the Union. From all sections of the Union the Democratic members of Congress were a unit in that caucus. They abrogated all geographical, local divisions. No man was stilted upon state pride, nor local preference. The only question was, who can best serve the party at this juncture so fraught with interest to the party and the Nation. Such was the basis of action in that caucus, and the wisdom of that course is apparent in the result of the struggle for the speakership. Though a small minority, yet for two months they held the enemy at bay, and at length came within four votes of defeating the candidate of the Black Republican coalition.

The same views which produced the action of the Democratic caucus at the National Capitol, seems to have fixed themselves in the minds of the Democracy with reference to the Presidential nominee. Men are not to be thought of, save as they represent the great principle upon which the campaign is to be fought. There will be no North, nor south, no East nor West, when discussing the question of a standard bearer to head the democratic column. Mason and Dixon's will be obliterated for all political purposes, and the mantle of nationality as broad as the constitution, will cover all those truly National men who have trod the path of duty without faltering, and breasted the storm of persecution and bigotry with loyalty to the constitution, and devotion to that party whose doctrines they profess and practice. No State lines will be suffered to hedge round a candidate with inviolability, nor will local considerations shut the door against the promotion of that Democrat who may be thought the best exponent of those cardinal principles which form the sub-basis of our national organization. From Maine to Texas, from Pennsylvania to California, one pulse will beat through all the Democratic movements. There will be—there can be, no difference of opinions. Mere individual preference, no matter how long or ardently felt or expressed, must and will be laid as a free-will offering upon the altar of the Constitution and the triumph of the party.

It is not a question as to what man will mount the Presidential Chair, or who shall hold the offices. These considerations sink into insignificance when contrasted with those more exalted duties which are beckoning the patriotic men of the party into a future, which must exert a high and commanding influence upon the destinies of this Republic. The Democratic party is watching this question of the choice of a candidate for the Presidency, as it is developing itself in the different states with intense interest. The value of the stake at issue is perfectly understood and appreciated. Hence it is that in almost every state the people are pronouncing for a fair choice. Deliberates are being elected, men of large and ample experience, and of well-tested political fidelity, and to their wisdom and directions is unhesitatingly confided—the interests of the party.

HON. JAMES BUCHANAN.—As the name of this eminent statesman is mentioned everywhere over the United States as a candidate for the Presidency, says the Philadelphia Pennsylvania-man of the 5th inst., it will probably be gratifying to the great mass of our people, to know the precise position he occupies, in reference to the Presidential question. It has long been the sincere desire of every patriotic heart, that so exalted an office as that of President of these United States, should "seek the man, and not the man the office." Perhaps there never was a time when both the people and the candidates generally spoken of for the Presidency, so earnestly bowed to that wholesome axiom. In a private letter to a gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Buchanan writes as follows:

"You refer to the connection of my name with the Presidency. * * * This I neither desired nor expected. The movement in my favor has, therefore, originated without my previous knowledge or consent, and I should be quite satisfied should another be selected."

The next will be the most important and responsible Presidential term since the last war with England, or perhaps since the origin of the government. Both our foreign and domestic affairs will require the guidance of an able, firm and skillful pilot to steer the vessel of State clear of the breakers. I pray Heaven that the best man be selected for the crisis, and to me it is a matter of indifference whether he comes from the North or the South, the East or the West."

"THE AGGRESSIONS or THE SLAVE POWER."

Opposition to the acquisition of territory and to the admission of new States into the Union has been a characteristic trait of the enemies of the democratic party ever since the purchase by Mr. Jefferson of the Louisiana territory. It was in the early party conflicts involving these questions that the South and the West harmonized in feeling and interest, (both being devoted to agricultural pursuits,) and cultivated a fraternal sympathy which has yet lost but little of its original strength.

It was not on account of the institution of slavery so much as from considerations of commercial jealousy of the predominance of the agricultural interest that the federalists opposed the acquisition of new territory. The question of slavery never becomes the prominent element of opposition to the admission of new States into the Union until Missouri made her application.

There was more of political calculation than of philanthropy in the objection to Missouri as a slave State. It was hoped that, as the western States did not recognize slavery in their constitutions, they would sympathize with the North in its anti-slavery position; and thereby that the strong bond which existed between the South and the West would be broken. The same object now actuates the political leaders who are constantly appealing to the people of the West and seeking to excite their prejudices against the South upon the oft-reiterated allegation of "the aggressive character of the slave power."

There never was a charge so repeatedly and so confidently made that was unfounded and so easily refuted as that which attributes a spirit of aggression to the southern people. Fanatics may listen to such an allegation, but be deceived by it. We propose to recur briefly to the facts of history to expose once more the falsity of the charge of aggression upon the North by "the slave power."

The most effective argument that abolitionists make against slavery is the fact that the ordinance of 1787 was a suggestion of Mr. Jefferson. But Mr. Jefferson was a southern man, and the territory to which the ordinance was applied was owned by Virginia, and was slave territory. Surely Mr. Jefferson's proposition was no aggression upon the North.

When the confederation was formed, all the unoccupied territory within its limits, except what composes the State of Vermont and Maine, belonged to the southern states. Within the limits of the "Old Thirteen" eleven new States have been added to the Union, and of these, all, except Vermont and Maine, were given by the South. Of the nine States thus formed out of slave territory a majority are free States—viz: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The South has not only been liberal in furnishing territory for new States, but in agreeing that a majority of them should be free States. Slavery was the law of every inch of the territory of the five free States just named; and if Virginia and the South had been actuated by the spirit of aggression falsely charged upon them, these States would never have come into the Union except as slave States.

We turn now to the facts of history in regard to the new States admitted outside of the territory of the "Old Thirteen." Louisiana territory was acquired by a southern President, or, as the abolitionists would say, by "the slave power." When we remember that this acquisition extended from the Gulf of Mexico to the head-waters of the Mississippi, about 47 deg. 30 min. of latitude, it need not be added that the acquisition was for the Union, and not for slavery. Besides, Mr. Jefferson made the acquisition, and no abolitionist will suspect him of being actuated by pro-slavery objects in his purchase. The purchase contained about 1,300,000 square miles, 836,000,000 acres; its limits would embrace thirty-five States as large as Indiana. Every part of this vast empire was slave territory.

The subsequent disposition of this territory, so far from showing that the South was aggressive, fixes the charge of aggression indisputably upon the North. When the people of Missouri, in accordance with the then existing law of the territory, and in the exercise of the principle of self-government, applied for the admission into the Union, they were repelled by the North because their constitution did not prohibit an institution which had existed in the territory long before its acquisition. The South was surely guilty of no aggression in insisting upon the right of Missouri to come into the Union on terms of equality with the other States.

But, when the North persisted in this aggressive resistance to the admission of Missouri, the South submitted to a division of the territory. By the terms of this submission, all the remaining Louisiana territory north of 36 deg. 30 min. was forever dedicated to free soil, whilst so much as was south of that line was not dedicated to slavery, but was to the decision of the people who might inhabit it. In order to secure for Missouri the enjoyment of an unquestionable right, the South agreed to surrender to free soil more than one half of the entire Louisiana purchase—and yet "the slave power" is constantly charged with aggressions upon the free North! In the divisions the South gave to the North an excess of 200,000 square miles—a territory large enough for four such states as Illinois; in other words, the south gave up to the North enough territory to make fifteen free States, and retained enough to make eleven, which, by the terms of the compromise, might be either slave or free States, as the people living on it might choose. This is the kind of aggression by which the slave power has sought to encroach upon freedom and to limit its area!

As Florida was so palpably essential to the interests of the whole confederacy, it is hardly necessary to say that it was no pro-slavery

propagandism that negotiated its acquisition, although it was acquired by a southern President. It was acquired with slavery existing in it, and its accession has added only one more slave State.

We next turn to the annexation of Texas. We know that this great measure met the most violent opposition at the North, and during its pendency it was held up by anti-slavery men as a southern issue. It is not true however, that it was a sectional issue, but Texas was annexed by the united voice of the national democracy spreading over and covering the whole Union. But, for the sake of the argument, let it be conceded that Texas was an acquisition of "the slave power." Will the subsequent disposition of its territory sustain the charge of aggression? The whole of Texas as proposed to be annexed to the United States was slave territory. The North objected because of the fact that it was slave territory. The south agreed to a division, assigning to free soil all lying north of 36 deg. 30 min., and reserving the residue to be admitted as slave free states as the people should decide.

We repeat, again, that the United States never owned an acre of free territory east of the Rocky mountains except what the south made free by votes of its representatives in Congress! And yet the south is daily charged by abolitionists with aggressions upon freedom!

A military association of colored natives has been formed at Boston. A colored lawyer has been elected captain, and they ask to be admitted to the volunteer militia of the state, as an independent company. It is said that their application is likely to be favorably acted upon.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

The State of Louisiana—Parish of East Feliciana. 7th District Court.
Philip Huff vs. [2026] W. G. McElwee.
L. H. DeArmond vs. [2143] W. G. McElwee.
Hugh Lucas vs. [1653] R. L. Bell, W. Gurney, Admr's, & W. G. McElwee, warrantor.
BY VIRTUE of a writ of f. fa. issued in the above entitled suit, from the honorable court aforesaid, directed to the sheriff of said parish, I will offer for sale at the door of the Court house in the town of Clinton, on the

FIRST SATURDAY OF APRIL, A. D. 1856, between the hours of 11 o'clock, a. m. and 4 o'clock, p. m., all the right, title, interest and claim of the defendant W. G. McElwee in and to the following described property, to wit:
The undivided one half of six hundred and forty (640) acres of Land, situated, lying and being in said Parish, about two miles east of the town of Clinton, being that part of said tract on which the residence of said McElwee is situated. Bounded on the north, by Bennett and Haynes; east by Davis and Hays; south by Hardesty and Nettles; and west by Haynes and M. Harris, with all the improvements thereon.

Terms of Sale.
A credit of twelve months. Purchasers will be required to give their 12 months bond, with approved personal security, and a mortgage will be retained on the property to secure the purchase price, and interest thereon.
March 8, 1856 B. M. G. BROWN, Sheriff.

COLLECTOR'S NOTICE.

I SHALL make it a rule to call but once on those on whom I may hold claims for collection. Consequently it must not be expected that more than one demand will be made by me.
Collections solicited and prompt settlements made. Notes of hand, accepted drafts, approved claims, &c., discounted at liberal rates.
A. SKAIZYNSKI
March 8 Agent and Collector, Clinton, La.

RAILROAD NOTICE.

FROM and after this date, until the opening of the next season, the regular days of running the Cars, will be on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.
March 8 MARSTON, Agent.

PROBATE SALE.

The state of Louisiana, Parish of East Feliciana, seventh District Court, No. 2481.
In the succession of C. L. Cole, deceased.
AUTHORIZED by a commission from the honorable court aforesaid, I will expose at public auction, to the last and highest bidder, on
TUESDAY, March 25, 1856, between the hours of 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock of said day, at the Court House door in the town of Clinton, the following described property to wit:
A lot of Clothing and some articles of Jewelry, a catalogue of which is embraced in the inventory of said succession, and will be made known on the day of sale.
Terms of Sale.—CASH.
March 8, 1856 JAMES WELSH, Auctioneer.

NOTICE.

HAVING engaged a competent workman, we are now prepared to repair watches, jewelry, &c.
March 8 NAUMANN & STRAUSS.

CORN MEAL—fresh from the mill, kept constantly on hand, by
D'ARMOND.

GUNS.—Kentucky Rifles for sale by
D'ARMOND.

PEAS.—A lot of country peas, for sale by
D'ARMOND.

COTTON SEED, on consignment and for sale by
D'ARMOND.

COX'S celebrated Cholera cure, Tar, sundry and various articles, for sale by
D'ARMOND.

IRISH Potatoes—different kinds—free from frost injury, in large barrels, for sale, by
D'ARMOND.

RAIL ROAD NOTICE.

ALL persons receiving Freight, except responsible Merchants and Traders in town, will hereafter be required to pay on delivery, unless the same is authorized to be charged to the account of a merchant.
The Rail Road Company will not be responsible for freight delivered along the road, except at stations where they have agents.
Storage charged on all freight remaining at the Depot ten days.
Feb 2 H. MARSTON, Agent.

PLANTATION FOR SALE.

WILL be sold, a plantation situated six miles north of the town of Jackson, La., and ten miles north west of Clinton, containing about 850 acres, there being on the place, a new gin, stable, saw quarters, dwelling, and all suitable buildings, necessary for a plantation, all in good repair.
For further particulars apply at this office. Jan 19