

Democracy and Slavery.

Partizan Democracy, in hopes of an earthly immortality, has taken to its bosom that vile repealer of sacred compacts, the Kansas-Nebraska bill.

In point of fact the repeal of the Missouri Restriction was a pro-slavery act. It is as much as any slaveholder can ask of the Government—a permit to use the only other power known to the slave system, viz: the individual power of the master to hold men in bondage. By this power slavery exists in Kansas. Yet Jos. Lane upon the stump declares that if a slaveholder were to take his negroes to Kansas they would be free under the Constitution, in the absence of positive enactment. Then he must believe that the Constitution is opposed to slavery; consequently pro-slavery laws in the Territories must be unconstitutional. But, no! you can't "consequence" the Gen. so easily. He believes that territorial regulations for the protection of slavery are perfectly right and constitutional, and therein he exhibits a most beautiful consistency of pro-slavery and anti-slavery opinions. He would no doubt avoid such great and sublime blunders by a little attention to the vigorous thoughts and opinions of a greater, in democracy, than himself, the latches of whose shoes he is scarcely worthy to loose. I commend him to the tender mercies of ex-Senator Benton, and I believe the great man will look down upon him with considerable commiseration.

The Gen. in his speeches appeals to the Spirits of '76, and pleads thus: Did our fathers not fight that they might be free? Did they not fight, bleed, and die, all, to nourish that glorious tree of Liberty now towering amongst us? and were they not capable of governing themselves? and are we not competent to choose for ourselves what kind of institutions we shall have?—And shall not the people regulate their own domestic affairs? Are not the people of the Territories as competent as they were before they left the States? They are certainly. Nobody will deny that.

What a pretty stop could have been put to such loose and pointless political sentimentality by asking one or two plain and simple questions. Suppose a poor foreigner (and I am told the Gen. loves a rich brogue now) to hold the following conversation with the Gen., who, I have no doubt, would be very willing to initiate all foreigners into the delectable mysteries of Squatter Sovereignty.

Foreigner—Who makes your laws in this Territory?

Gen. Lane—(with exultation)—We, the free people of the Territory.

For.—Are your laws subject to any revision except by the people?

Gen.—(hesitatingly)—Well, yes; Congress has a veto power, but don't use it.

For.—Who elect your Territorial officers?

Gen.—Well, to tell you about that, they are appointed by the President.

For.—How about their pay, &c.?

Gen.—Well! Congress pays the officers, the expenses of the Legislature, and for the public printing, and also gives us an organic act.

For.—Does Congress do the same for other Territories, and is this the custom?

Gen.—Yes, though their organic acts may differ somewhat.

For.—You want a change, I suppose; you want a State.

Gen.—Look here! you see now that I go with Messrs. Cass and Douglas in favor of Squatter Sovereignty, and for Liberty, yes, for the largest liberty to every body, whether in the Territory or not, and for the people of the Territory to regulate their own domestic affairs.

For.—Gen., you say the Legislature is elected by the people, and Congress don't use its veto power; how then, don't you regulate your domestic affairs?

Gen.—Partly; but there is in our organic act a "Wilmot Proviso," preventing the people from holding slaves. I want to leave that vexing question to the people, where it belongs.

For.—Why, it appears that that vexing question is settled rightly now. The people in righteousness could only settle it as it is already settled, and the agitation would only cost time and trouble, and might end in slavery—a most horrible curse.

Gen.—Oh! I am as much opposed to slavery as any body, but what I argue is a great democratic principle; the opposite of it is in violation of the Constitution. Congress has no right to legislate for Territories.

It is not to be expected that the poor foreigner, though he had the best of the argument, was a lawyer, for at the large word "Constitution" he became silent, and was no doubt confounded. If he had taken time to consider that the Gen. perpetrated no argument, but made a sweeping assertion, probably he would have answered him. But so it is.

Mr. Bush reiterates the same groundless assertion, and continues with this argu-

ment: "The right of Congress to keep Slavery out of the Territories carries with it the right to legislate Slavery into the Territories;" consequently he denies any right at all. Now, the redoubtable editor believes in legislating Slavery into Territories by an abrogation of power, but he don't believe in prohibiting Slavery by a direct exercise of that power.

For the benefit of the opposition and the people I shall quote the opinions and argument of the Hon. Thos. H. Benton, from his speech in Congress on the Nebraska Bill:

"And what is all this hotch-potch for? It is to establish a principle, they say—the principle of non-intervention—of Squatter Sovereignty. Sir, there is no such principle. The Territories are the children of the States; they are minors under twenty years of age, and it is the business of the States, through their delegates in Congress, to take care of these minors until they are of age, until they are ripe for State Government, then give them that government and admit them to an equality with their Fathers. That is the law and the way of the case, and has been so acknowledged since the first ordinance in 1784 by all authorities, Federal and State, legislative, judicial, and executive.—The States in Congress are the Guardians of the Territories, and are bound to exercise the Guardianship, and cannot abdicate it without a breach of trust and a dereliction of duty. Territorial Sovereignty is a monstrous born of timidity and ambition, hatched into existence in the hot incubation of a Presidential canvass, and revolting to the holders when first presented.

"Well do I remember that day when it was first shown in the Senate. Mark Antony did not remember the day when Caesar first put on that mantle, though which he was afterwards pierced with three and twenty venomous stabs! It was in the Senate in 1846, and was received as nonsense,—as the essence of nonsense—as the quintessence of nonsense—as the five times distilled essence of political non-sensibility. Why, Sir, the Territory is in the property of the States, and they do what they please with it—permit it to be settled or not, as they please; cut it up by lines, as they please; sell it or give it away, as they please; chase white people from it, as they please.

"After this farrago—this olla podrida—comes a little stump speech, injected in the belly of the bill, and which must have a prodigious effect when recited in the prairies, and out towards the frontier, and up toward the heads of the creeks. I will read it, and I hope without fatiguing the House, for it is both brief and beautiful, and runs thus: 'It being the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate Slavery into any State or Territory, nor to exclude it therefrom; but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States.' This is the speech, and a pretty little thing itself, and very proper to be spoken from a stump in the prairie. It has intent, and a true intent, which is neither to legislate Slavery into or out of any State or Territory. Then why legislate at all? Why all this disturbance if no effect is produced, and things to remain just as they were? Let well enough alone, was the old doctrine; to make well enough better, is the doctrine of progress; and that in spite of the Italian epithet, which says: 'I was well, and would be better; took phony, and here I am.' But the States must be greatly delighted at the proffered and forbearance of this bill. It puts States and Territories upon precise equality with respect to the power of Congress over them. Congress does not mean to put Slavery in or out of any State or Territory. To all that polite abrogation I have to say, that in respect to the States, it is the supererogation of modesty and humility, as Congress happened to have no power to put Slavery in them or out of them, and in respect to the Territories, it is an abdication of a CONSTITUTIONAL POWER AND DUTY: it being the right of Congress to legislate upon Slavery in the Territories, and its duty to do so when there is occasion for it—as in 1787 and 1820."

As to the assertion of Gen. Lane that slaves in Kansas are free under the Constitution, and can be freed by that instrument, let us hear Mr. Benton again. He says: "Sir, the Constitution was not made for Territories, but for States. Its provisions are all applicable to States, and cannot be put in operation in Territories. They cannot vote for President or Vice President, or members of Congress, nor elect their own officers, nor prescribe the qualifications of voters, or administer their own laws by their own judges, sheriffs, and attorneys; and the clause extending the Constitution to them is a cheat and an illusion, and a trick to smuggle Slavery into the Territories. Now it is intended that they shall have no legislative right under the Constitution, even in relation to Slavery. They may admit it because it is to be there by the Constitution; they cannot exclude it, because the Constitution puts it there. That is the argument; and it is a juggle worthy of the trick of one egg under three hats at the same time—and under neither at any time. Besides, the Constitution is an organic, not an administrative act. It is a code of principles, not of laws. Not a clause in it can be executed except by virtue of a law made under it—not even the clause for recovering fugitive slaves."

The same arguments which induced Mr. Benton to oppose the Kansas Bill should induce lovers of Freedom and free institutions to demand its repeal. The pro-slavery democrats of Oregon, not contented with the opening of Kansas and Nebraska to that direst of curses, Slavery, resolved Congress in regard to the anti-republican nature of the Wilmot Proviso, and the right of the people to settle that matter themselves. I would advise the Hon. gentleman, who introduced those excessively democratic resolutions, in the language of Tom Benton, that those resolutions are a prelude to a "trick to smuggle Slavery into the Territory." W. D. R.

A Young Authoress Converted to Romanism.

A daughter of Mrs. Charlotte Eaton, the writer of that delightful book, "Rome in the Nineteenth Century," has lately been converted to the Roman Church—a consequence, we infer, of the mother's long residence in the Papal city.

The zeal of the new convert was recently exhibited in a singular manner. She would be married in the suburban chapel beneath the Church of St. Peter's in Rome, in the presence of the alleged remains of St. Peter himself. So the Pope granted a special permission, and on the 6th of the last month the bridal party, composed mostly of English people, descended into the crypt, where the marriage ceremony was performed.

We have not heard that there was any miraculous rattling of boxes, in approval of the important event.—Boston Reg.

4th of July—Public Meeting!!

MONDAY evening next, at the Hall over Dr. M. Steele's Drug Store, the PUBLIC will meet to make arrangements to celebrate the coming 4th in this city. MANY CITIZENS.

U. S. MAIL LINE.

Portland and Astoria. The Splendid Steamer MULHOMAH, WILL continue to run regularly between Portland and Astoria, via Vancouver, twice a week, leaving Portland on Monday and Thursday mornings of each week for Astoria; and Astoria for Portland on Tuesday and Friday mornings, touching VANCOUVER, ST. HELENS, RAISER, CATALAMET, &c., each way. For freight or passage, apply to R. HOYT, Master, jelt Or at Hoyt's Wharf-boat, Portland.

Land, No 1

THE Subscriber is now offering for sale his entire land claim consisting of 640 acres, situated on the Abicaw one mile and a half above the Territorial road, in Marion County. His claim is well adapted to stock raising, farming or milling purposes. He has two excellent mill seats on his claim. The improvements are not extensive, but sufficient to give a settler a fine start. He offers the claim at low, that it is certainly an excellent chance for some man to get a bargain. Come along and see for yourselves. June 7, 1855.—913 J. B. POST.

To Shippers.

THE BARK "C. LEROUX" will lead with Produce for San Francisco between 20th inst. and 1st July. For freight or passage apply to Captain on board, or to G. ABERNETHY & CO. June 15, 1855.

Wm. G. Dement & Co.

WHOLESALE and retail Dealers in Groceries, Provisions, Paints, Oils, Boots and Shoes, Crockery, &c. Opposite the Land Office, Main St. Oregon City. June 1, 1855-73

The Summer Trade.

WE are now receiving from New York and San Francisco, the following goods: 10,000 lbs No 1 chincin sugar, 60 chests and half bbls N. O. sugar, 100 lbs Imperial gunpowder and young hyon tea, 150 sacks Rio coffee, 100 boxes salaratus, 100 boxes sperm and adamantine candles, 250 kegs E. B. syrup, 25 bbls crushed sugar, 30 cases pickles, 300 boxes soap, 200 half-box raisins, 100 gross matches, (in world) 25 cases table salt, 100 kegs white lead, (pure) 250 gals. Linseed Oil, 250 " Lamp Oil, 50 boxes glass, assorted sizes, 30 doz brooms, 5000 lbs tobacco, 200 kegs nails, 6000 yds brown sheeting. Also, rope, tube, buckets, window-sash, crockery, wall paper, brushes, &c., &c.; all of which will be sold at the lowest market prices. W. G. DEMENT & CO. Opposite the Land Office, Oregon City, June 1, 1855-73

Wanted!

A WOMAN—to do housework in a private family. Address the Argus Office.

Notice.

District Court—Clatsop County—Territory of Oregon. A. J. Pope vs. J. S. Higgins. Summons. To J. S. Higgins. YOU are hereby required, in the name of the United States of America, to appear before the District Court of Clatsop County to be held in Oregon City on the 17th day of Sept. next (being the third Monday of said month) to answer the complaint of A. J. Pope. And you are hereby notified that if you fail to appear and answer the said complaint, the plaintiff will take judgment against you for four hundred and twenty-four dollars, and interest from the 19th day of January, 1855, together with costs of suit.

L. S.

Witness F. S. Holland, Clerk, and the Seal of said Court, this 31st day of May, 1855. F. S. HOLLAND, Clerk.

Daguerreotyping.

THE subscriber will remain in Oregon City for two weeks, and is prepared to take daguerreotypes in the best style, at his rooms over the French Store. Please call and give me a trial. J. S. B. CHATEL. Oregon City, May 26, 1855-62

Friends of Freedom, Attention!!

THERE will be a general MASS MEETING of the friends of Free Soil, and Human Liberty, held in Albany, Lin Co. Oregon, on the last Wednesday (27th) of June, 1855, to determine a course of action for the opposers in Oregon to all Slavery Extension. Our foes in the Territory are already actively engaged, while we are slumbering. Let us rally to oppose them. MANY CITIZENS.

Keel-Boat "Fre Trad"!!

SUMMER NAVIGATION ON THE UPPER WILLAMET RIVER!! IS THERE SUCH A THING? I HAVO! MAN HAZ DUN, MAN HAZ DO!! I AM now building a keel-boat, or barj, or fort ton burthen for the purpose. Will be redi about the mid of Jun '55. Aim to kari frate as cheap, or cheaper than can be karterd. Just let me suggest that if a bot can get the frating both war, that she kan do it cheaper, &c. I will here state that if frating can be done cheaper than I can do it, the "Fre Trad" will "la to" pro bono publico. "The river" does not "belong to me" or to the "Fre Trad," but I and the "Fre Trad" belong to the Willamet river—and we ar her for the good of the public. No inducement will I give us "kombin" for the sek or making a "big pile" of us the public, if we can possibl liv. A living it of we want, and must enef to bi the material for a nu bot hwen this wun wout. We kan bid it convsive or rari dm. Wud lik to hav a smol shar or sr patronaj—at lest enuf to "pa the printer." Tak du notes therat and send an ar ordre akording. LENURD HWIT. Willamet River, Ma 19, 1855-5y

Oranges

RECEIVED upon the arrival of every steamer. Don't fail to call on CHARMAN & WARNER.

Geo. G. Robbins.

PRACTICAL WATCH MAKER, Portland, Oregon, devotes his entire attention to Repairing fine watches—and having an experienced Jeweller in his employ, is prepared to manufacture every description of Jewelry, and execute engraving neatly. G. C. R. keeps constantly on hand a fine assortment of clocks, watches, and new and fashionable Jewelry—to which he invites the attention of the Public. May 12, 1855-4m2

40 LBS of Omega Orange seed for sale by JAMES O'NEILL.

30 LBS of APPLE seed for sale cheap by JAMES O'NEILL.

500 lbs. Feathers for sale by T. JOHNSON.

CIGARS—The best chance to pick up at the store of CHARMAN & WARNER.

Portland Prices Current.

Table of prices for various goods including Flour, Sugar, Coffee, and other commodities.

LADIES!

YOU will find an excellent assortment of Dress and Bonnet Silks, Satins and Velvets; also Bonnet Trimmings, Hosiery, Gloves, Lace and Ribbons, Table Cloths, Counterpanes, etc., at the store of CHARLES POPE, Jr., (Main-st., opposite Abernethy's store,) where may be found almost everything in the line of Dry Goods.

Remedy for Hard Times!!

Farmers of Oregon! 'Tis no use to contend against fate!! You never can get rich until you buy one of our Peoria and Gatesburgh Plows.

FRESH ARRIVAL OF GROCERIES, &C.

THE subscriber has just received a fresh supply of Groceries, Provisions and Hardware, which, in addition to his former stock, he will sell at extremely low prices for Cash or Produce. His stock consists in part of the following articles: New Orleans sugar, Crushed do., Rio & Java coffee, New Orleans syrup, Sandwich Islands do., Serrano & Peaches, Pepper & Allspice, Yeast & Soap Powders, East Boston syrup, Sausage—Cast and German steel, mill and crock-cut, hand, panel, and whip-saws, Files and Raps—Mill saw files from 10 to 16 inches; flat bastard files from 10 to 14 inches; turpentine files from 3 to 7 inches; half round files from 7 to 14 inches; round do from 5 to 7 inches; horse rasps from 11 to 14 inches.

Divorce Notice.

District Court, Clatsop County, O. T. George W. Jackson, plaintiff, vs. Mary A. Jackson, defendant. THE defendant above named will take notice that the said plaintiff has this day filed a complaint in the above entitled cause, in the Clerk's office of said court, alleging among other things the willful desertion by the said defendant, of her husband the said plaintiff, and their children, and praying for a divorce from the bonds of matrimony. Now therefore, unless the said defendant shall appear before the said District Court on the first day of the next term thereof, to be held in the Court House in Oregon City, in the county aforesaid, on the 17th day of September next, the plaintiff will ask for the relief demanded in said complaint. HOLBROOK & BANKER. May 23, 1855-614 Att'ys for plaintiff.

Divorce Notice.

Rachel Maybee vs. Samuel S. Maybee, Clatsop County. SAMUEL S. MAYBEE, the defendant, in a hereby notified that the plaintiff, Rachel Maybee, has filed a petition in the District Court in and for Clatsop County, praying for a dissolution of the bonds of matrimony now existing between the plaintiff and defendant, and that this cause will be tried in the said District Court at the term commencing on the third Monday of September next. RACHEL MAYBEE, Plff. Oregon City, May 19, 1855-614

Just Received.

A Splendid assortment of Family Groceries, such as tea, syrup, sugar, &c.; also fine and coarse salt, cream tartar, apples, chili peaches, sardines, oysters, clams, yeast powder, also a large quantity of superior cheroot cigars, and tobacco of every brand—and almost every thing else in our line of business—all of which will be sold as low as at any other place in town, for cash or produce. CHARMAN & WARNER.

OATS wanted at the store of C. POPE, Jr.

SEED buckwheat for sale by C. POPE, Jr.

CHAIN pumps for sale by C. POPE, Jr.

D. R. Jayne's medicines for sale by C. POPE, Jr.

EAU de Cologne, a superior article, at C. POPE, Jr.

BARRY'S Tricopherous for sale by C. POPE, Jr.

ALL those indebted to Preston, O'Neill & Co. are requested to call and settle the same immediately, by Cash or Produce. All debts remaining unpaid 1st of June, will be left for collection. [ap21lf] JAMES O'NEILL.

CLOCKS—Beautiful time keepers, at very low prices. G. ABERNETHY & CO.

FURNITURE—Bedsteads and chairs for sale low to close the invoice. G. ABERNETHY & CO.

Central Produce Depot.

CANEMAH CONSTANTLY receiving, fresh from ranch, wheat, oats, bacon, lard, butter and potatoes. JOHN P. BROOKS.

Just Received, At the "Old Stand," Canemah, April 21, '55. 4,000 lbs. Light Brown Sugar, 1,000 lbs. Rio Coffee, 15 Tons coarse salt; 500 lbs. fine do., 3,000 lbs. Oregon Bacon; 1,000 bushels oats, for sale wholesale or retail, by JOHN P. BROOKS.

Lot and House for Sale!!

LOT No. one (1) in Block No. five (5) in Oregon City—with the building thereon lately occupied by Messrs. Albright & Price as a meat market. For terms and particulars as to title, address, TREVETT & CO. Portland, O. T. May 12, 1855-4d3

IN our bakery we keep constantly on hand bread, crackers, cakes, pies, &c. CHARMAN & WARNER.

CANDIES, nuts, raisins, of an excellent quality just received and for sale low by CHARMAN & WARNER.

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