

The Power of a State over Slave Property.

It is the province of the democratic party to maintain the Constitution. Being the only political organization of national character, its mission is to support whatever rights the constitution supports, and to guarantee whatever privileges the constitution guarantees.

Upon the subject of slavery, as well as upon every other subject which has fallen within the pale of politics, the democracy will adhere firmly to Constitutional ground.

What is the power of a State over slave property? In the words of the U. S. Supreme Court, in the Dred Scott case:

"The principle upon which our governments rest, and upon which alone they continue to exist, is the union of the States, sovereign and independent within their respective spheres of domestic concerns, and bound together as one people by a general government, possessing certain enumerated and restricted powers, derived from the people of the several States, and exercising supreme authority within the scope of the powers granted it, throughout the dominion of the United States."

This principle of absolute sovereignty in the several States touching this domestic policy, is vital to the life of the Union, and must never be lost sight of. In the earlier days of the republic, all the States accepted it and acted upon it.

The subject of slavery is one of those institutions of our country which are peculiarly domestic and local to the several States where they exist. It has always been thus held, and most rightfully so, by the States interested.

In the North when slavery became unprofitable and was a tax upon the master and a burden upon the State, they abolished it, without consultation with the South, and without objection from that quarter.

In the South the States have severally passed laws restricting the importation of slaves from foreign countries; and at all times they have regulated the tenure and terms of emancipation of slave property within their boundaries.

State laws determine to be property. In this the States are sovereign. What is true in relation to property in African slaves, is true with relation to every other kind of property, as far as State and Federal connections are concerned.

At one time white foreign paupers were brought to the state of New Jersey and were held under the laws of that State, in slavery for a term of years. But at that time the master could not remove to Virginia and take such property with him. The laws of Virginia did not permit it.

Pennsylvania is regulating her currency, passed a law forbidding the circulation and use of State bank notes of five dollars.

In the several slave States there have been different systems of legislation with relation to slave property. In some the owner is not allowed to manumit his slaves within the State; in others, he is allowed the privilege under certain restrictions.

Mr. Calhoun and other prominent States-rights men of his school, both North and South, held to this doctrine.

Many have suffered themselves to be misled upon this subject by the assertion that no law of a State nor of the United States, can destroy a vested right of property.

As well might it be said that because certain remedies at law are granted by one State, they should be enforced by others.

When these principles shall have been fully understood, and shall have been recognized by all, as fundamental in our government; when the wares of fanaticism shall have expended their fury in forceless dashings against the bulwarks of the constitution; when local malcontents, attempting to profane the shrine of our common liberties, shall be hurled back, by the arm of power, to their own annihilation; then, the Union of these States will rise, conscious of a well balanced frame, nerveed with a giant's strength, and with a continent as a pedestal, will stand, a living colossus among the nations of the earth!

Valuation of Oregon. We are indebted to our efficient Territorial Auditor, B. F. Bonham, Esq., for the following statement of the valuation of property in the several counties of Oregon for 1857.

Table showing valuation of property in Oregon counties for 1857. Columns include County Name and Valuation. Total for 1856: \$18,463,172. Total for 1857: \$16,304,478. Gain: \$2,158,694.

C. E. Pickett is in Oregon, and trying to figure in the contest upon the adoption of the new Constitution. He is opposing it, and succeeds in getting an occasional letter before the public.

Two weeks ago we stated the banks had reached a point that utterly disqualified them from rendering aid to the reckless merchant, manufacturer and speculator; and we should have added to honest business men. Money is gold, whether it be found in shape of gold coin or bank bills.

Every effect has a cause; and it must appear evident to every intelligent mind that the banks have been the cause of the present financial troubles. If the merchant overtraded, he was enabled to do it by the banks.

The banks having gone to the extent of their abilities in assisting the ambitious to speculate, the crisis came; and they are now striving to sustain themselves, without having the ability to aid in their friends' distress.

The Democratic Central Committee are notified to meet at Salem on the 10th of December. The Oregon Times and the Jacksonville Herald only requested to copy.

The report that Walton had cut his throat proves to be erroneous. Speaking of Walton, reminds us that he has disclosed the fact of his association with Dryer in conducting the Oregonian.

As a general thing the hostler's editorials are made up of the disjointed fragments of half-drunken slang he spews up with his whiskey around the back alley drinking saloons of this city.

The Jacksonville Sentinel, we presume was not named because it does not profess to be a party paper. It styles itself "independent," and we think, last spring—stating that it was not a party paper—gave notice that it would not publish the notices of any party without they were paid for as advertisements.

The purpose proclaimed.—The last Avery's Ox has a communication signed "A," which "reckons all as friends who enlist in the patriotic struggle," which is to take place to defeat the Democratic party in Oregon.

A friend of ours, speaking of how Pearce says he don't know anything of his abilities as an editor, but he looks as if he had great "Veto" powers.—Portland Times.

- A List of Members of the Council. Marion County—Edward Shell. Wasco and Clatsop—Thomas Scott. Polk and Tillamook—Nathaniel Ford. Linn—Charles Drain. Benton and Lane—Arvey A. Smith. Umpqua, Douglas, Coos and Curry—Hugh D. O'Bryen.

Below are the figures from such counties as have sent in official returns, to this date: Below are the figures from such counties as have sent in official returns, to this date: Below are the figures from such counties as have sent in official returns, to this date:

Table showing population figures for various counties in Oregon, including Marion, Linn, Wasco, Polk, Tillamook, Clatsop, Douglas, Jackson, and others.

The Times notices the receipt of the Astoria railroad committee report for publication, but declines, saying it does not find any of their names upon its subscription books.

Speaking of the support of the democratic press, we notice in the last Oregonian a long advertisement worth twenty or thirty dollars, from the Qr. Masters dept. U. S. A., at the Dalles, while the Portland Times, and every other democratic paper in the Territory is without it.

When you write for a newspaper, write all your words in full as you wish them printed. This has been said a thousand times, but not one man in ten observes the rule.

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The Steamer Running to Oregon. At a meeting of the "Shipwrights Association," San Francisco, the adjourned statement was made respecting the steamer running to Oregon.

In relation to the Columbia, the President stated that he worked on her about eight months ago, when she was in a very bad condition. Her beams are wide apart, and the upper deck is very light.

The Commodore (Brother Jonathan) was running in New York in 1851, and ran into a schooner on the North river at that time. She was not built for a river boat, but as a steamer to run to one of the Southern ports on the Atlantic side.

The California was next under discussion. One of the members stated that he worked on her in New York, in 1850, and that she was launched in 1851.

The Constitution's decks are in bad condition, and her starboard waist planks infected with dry rot. They were cut out and repaired.

Mr. G. A. Swasey, Port-warden of San Francisco, at the request of Forbes & Bycock, the P. M. S. Co's agents at San Francisco, made an examination of the John L. Stephens, considered one of the best steamers the mail company has, and pronounced her unseaworthy.

By the request of Messrs. Forbes & Bycock, I held a special re-examination upon the hull of the steamship John L. Stephens, and found that a great portion of her frame, near and adjoining floor beams, was in a very rotten and unsound condition.

Notwithstanding this the Stephens was immediately sent to sea (on her last trip) without any repair.

Going Back Home.—The prospect of hard times for the coming winter has largely increased the number of passengers going to England. Every ship for Liverpool now has all the passengers she can carry, and multitudes are applying for opportunities to work their passage, who have not money to pay it.

Will, Harely Return.—We are told that when Emigrant was taken from Deer Creek, by the sheriff, he said that he should be back there in about six weeks; that he had spotted a horse at Portland which he intended to steal and ride back, and that if he did not use him up, he should want to sell him. He stole a horse in Jacksonville about six weeks ago.

Master Edwin Backstrom, eldest son of late Col. Backstrom, was severely injured on Wednesday morning last, by the accidental discharge of a shot gun. The charge passing through the wrist, and causing such injury to the bones and soft parts, that on dissection, amputation of the forearm was deemed necessary; the patient being placed under the influence of chloroform, the operation was performed by Dr. Wilson, the attending physician. There was also severe injury to the right eye.—Times.

The Treasurer of the "American Sunday School Union," Frederick W. Porter, a man about 80 years old, and a zealous Christian, has fobbed ninety thousand dollars of the society's funds. The committee on deposits and finance have issued an address, announcing the defalcation, and asking the public not to cease their contributions on account of this disposition of their funds, they close as follows:

"We cannot entertain the thought for a moment that an institution so signally favored of God, and so eminently fitted by its organization and agencies to bless and save our country, will be left to languish and decay because one of its agents, in an evil hour, has proved faithless to his trust.

We have received from McCormick, Portland, a copy of "Wells Illustrated National Hand Book," full of valuable statistics and other matter, for the politician and clown. See McCormick's advertisements in the Statesman. Persons wanting any article in the book and stationery line from the States, will find this a most favorable opportunity.

After court adjourned, Sheriff Craig arrested one James Jones, for stealing \$1200 from a miner's cabin in Starvation diggings. He is in jail.

Mr. Thornbury has become associated with Mr. Beggs in the publication of the Jacksonville Herald. We trust the democrats south will not suffer the Herald to languish for want of support. Take the Herald first, and then subscribe for the Statesman.

The Legislative Assembly meets here to-day, (Monday), but will not organize, we presume, permanently, before to-morrow.

Those of our readers who think they can stand it to take three black-republican papers published in this city, will be glad to "go in common" on the Astorian. The more you lay down on that board the less you take up.—Portland Times.

We are told that David Logan will be the opposition candidate for Congress next June.

W. R. Morris wants his Statesman changed to Sublimity. He neglected to state where he now receives it, and we are unable to find it.

We are indebted to Mr. S. H. Points, of various and valuable varieties. He has our prayers for any kind of success.

The Ox man never found it convenient to deny a knowingness. We do not believe he ever was a democrat, not even before the rise of kno-nothingism.

Avery's Ox has thrown up its very thin disguise, and is now out openly for a re-run with all the limbs opposed by the democratic party, to defeat the latter. The pro-slavery sheet, The Oregonian has borrowed a cook-stove and gone to "bathing." It may hold out, in consequence of this, till the Legislature elects a printer. Hall does not tell the truth when he says Trayer is the only one that has stopped his paper. We have all tried to stop it, but it is a thing—paid for in full, and requested him, for God's sake, to stop it. Wouldn't you call that stopping it. Some who had paid for it, a year, and didn't want it, ordered it sent to some other address for the balance of the time, I believe. One, I understand, ordered his copy sent to Wilson Blain, Nesmith ordered the copy he was sending to him, (he never ordered him to send it) stopped, and last week he publishes a lie Avery gave him, charging Nesmith with having been a deserter—an old slander Avery borrowed of Thornton, and Hall got of Avery. Some of the boys here told Hall that Nesmith would not do it, and he is dreadfully frightened—loaded his story with pistols—says Thornton gave him the story—that he will retract it, &c., &c. VERITAS.