

SECRET SOCIETIES IN THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

The following resolutions were offered in the House of Delegates of Maryland, on the 8th instant: Resolved, That so much of the Governor's Message as relates to secret political societies, be referred to a select committee of five, with instructions to inquire and report: Whether any and what secret political societies are known to exist in this State.

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PARTIES-CONTRASTS.

The voting in the House of Representatives, for Speaker, discloses a marked and singular condition of parties, which we may briefly remark on. It is known to the whole country that the Democratic party, after binding itself by the most stringent tests and refusing to compromise any of its principles, took as its candidate for Speaker the gentleman who, more than any one else, was identified with the great measure of the last Congress—the Nebraska-Kansas bill. It thus not only determined to declare its approbation of, and adherence to, that bill, but it went further, and doubly emphasized its commitment to it by taking as its standard-bearer the gallant Democrat from Illinois, who piloted the bill through the House of Representatives. The Democratic party is firmly cemented and altogether harmonious.

When we look from that party to the members of the Know Nothing order, we are struck with an impressive contrast. Instead of one, there are two Know Nothing parties. Instead of one candidate, there are two candidates; instead of one creed and one platform, there are two creeds and two platforms.

When we look, again, from the Know Nothings to the Free Soil party, we behold another contrast. That party presents a complete and harmonized a jumble of contradictions and antagonisms as could well be imagined. It is made up of men who were once Democrats, of men who were once Whigs, and indeed, of men who have been everything by turns. But harmonized by one common instinct into one firm brotherhood, they declare their principles and sustain their candidate. We hear sometimes of sound and unsound Democrats, of sound and unsound Whigs, of sound and unsound Know Nothings, but no one ever hears of the same distinction being taken in respect to Black Republicans. Abolitionism is their animating, vital principle.

In brief—the Black Republican party is an unconstitutional anti-slavery party. But they have one virtue, and that is, they hang together. Of the few Whigs left as memorials of a once great and triumphant party, some act with one party, some with other parties. The Know-Nothings are split and divided into two or three separate parties, and hold, some pro-slavery, some anti-slavery opinions. They cannot agree.

The only party that is thoroughly conservative and constitutional—that has a perfect platform in which all agree, and that votes to a man for one candidate—is the Democratic party. Its position before the country is proud and prominent.—[W. Sentinel.]

DISTURBANCE AT BETHANY COLLEGE, VIRGINIA.

Mr. Philip Burns and nine other students, who quitted Bethany College, near Wheeling, Va., in November, have published a statement of the reasons which induced them to take this step. The question of slavery had often been publicly debated by Northern and Southern students previous to Sunday, November 11, without causing ill feeling on either side, but on that day, at the President's request, Mr. Philip Burns chose for the subject of a sermon, "The Great Principle of Liberty," and alluded to West India emancipation. The excitement became intense, and a tremendous stamping and hissing, it is alleged, was made to silence him. Then about one-third of the audience rushed out, with loud cries and imprecations. Stones were hurled against the house, and it was proposed to conduct Mr. Burns to Buffalo creek, hard by, and baptize him in the name of the "peculiar institution." The mob, however, were frustrated in their purpose through the vigilance of Burns' friends. The next day about twenty Northern students held a meeting and resolved to leave the College, unless those connected with the mob were publicly repudiated or expelled. On the following day one of the Professors told them that if they did not return to their classes the Faculty had determined to expel them and publish their names in the leading papers of the Union. Ten of the twenty students remained firm to the resolution they had passed, and refusing to obtain any redress, they quitted Bethany College.

THE SOUTHERN SYSTEM OF LABOR.

Of all the disgusting, mawkish things that meet us occasionally in politics and politicians, nothing is more nauseating than the apologetic, deprecatory tones of the paltering and sinister class of defenders with which the Southern people have been afflicted. They are those who conceive that black slavery is an evil—that it is wrong economically, politically and morally—but that owing to imperious circumstances, it should be tolerated for a time. Unfortunately, Mr. Clay, who, with all his acknowledged statesmanship, rather skimmed over the surface of great questions than dived to the bottom, was misled into this weak and narrow view of the subject; and his defence of the South was scarcely less dangerous than Seward's open and formal attacks.

We are glad to see every day indications that the Southern people are determined to discountenance this whining tone and supplanting cant in their behalf, by weak or treacherous advocates who take the South before a Northern tribunal for trial, and open the pleading with a confession of guilt. We trust the political days of such are numbered, and that they will be pushed into the harmless obscurity which they merit.—John C. Calhoun well knew the dangerous tendency of this species of left-handed vindication, and it is mainly due to this philosophic mind and masterly statesmanship that black slavery at the South has been placed on the solid basis, moral, political and economic, which it now occupies.—By the laws of mental affinity, his thought has attracted the best thought of the country, and of all parties, until philosophy, statesmanship, as well as enlightened philanthropy are all compelled to proclaim that the blacky slaver of the South is right in principle and expedient in policy. Upon this basis the question must be kept, or yielded altogether.

Northern and English Philanthropists and fanatics who are so eager to reform the South, act upon the assumption that the negro is a black white man, and qualified to live in perfect social and political equality with the white or Caucasian races—a fallacy that we may expect to be established when the leopard changes his spots, and the sooty Ethiopian is washed white in the fountains of the Nile. Mentally the moral justification of the South lies in facts against which fanaticism and cant are both powerless.—They are those, to wit, that the negro is inferior to the white man by nature and by destiny; that he never can be his equal until the laws of God are abrogated; and that wherever and whenever the two come in juxtaposition, dominion on one side and servitude on the other, are the legitimate relations between them.

As a political institution, we find black slavery a blessing, in the fact that it prevents the virtual enslavement of any class of the whites, and obviates an evil which has been the fruitful source of nearly all the agrarian movements and sanguinary revolutions which have rent and convulsed society—that of want and famine in the poor class. In free society, or where there is no slave population, a contest is always waging between capital and labor—between the rich and poor classes, the tendency of which is to make the rich richer and the poor poorer, until extremity drives the latter to satiate at once their vengeance and their want by slaughter and rapine. Free society, no matter under what form of government, has not been able to find a remedy for this evil, and its continually recurring catastrophe. The guant spectre of famine is ever haunting the nominally free society of Western Europe, and there is not one of its thrones that is able to stand before the mad cry for bread. But under the system of well regulated black slavery, there can be no scarcity, no famine, and consequently no wild cry for bread, agrarian outbreaks, and carnage.

In an economical view, black slavery is a blessing—indeed, an institution indispensable to the agriculture of the South at least. In the free States, men are inclined to shun agriculture, the simplest but the richest, most repulsive and least remunerated of all labors, and crowd into the professions, trades, arts, &c., at the expense of the productive resources of the country. The effect is, a constant tendency to a decline in agriculture, the demoralization of the laboring classes, an increase in the price of food, scarcity, and possibly famine. The tendency to neglect agriculture would be much greater in southern and tropical countries, where the whites cannot endure field labor, and the blacks will not work without a master. The present condition of Jamaica and Hayti are illustrations. Mexico is fast verging to the same condition, and all serve to convince us that on the cessation of slave labor directed by intelligence, the most productive countries in the world will begin to assume their wild fauna and flora, and to lapse into savagery. Black slavery secures the South from such doom, while it guarantees her against poverty and famine, and the social and political evils which they engender. It is only that which can yet restore Jamaica and Hayti and yet save Cuba from desolation; and it is that, also, and an accession of new white blood, which are necessary to regenerate Mexico, give her political stability, and do justice to her natural resources. History, geography, political economy, abound in evidence to vindicate the black slavery to the South. She wants no apologists—she only challenges inquiry.

The New York Observer, in the course of an article on slavery, says: "When the ancestors of those negroes were torn from their homes in Africa, by the slave-traders of Old England and New England and placed under the influence of Christianity at the South, they were among the most degraded and miserable of the human species, slaves of cruel masters, the victims of bloody superstitions, believers in witchcraft and worshippers of the devil.

THE PAST AND PRESENT CONDITION OF THE NEGRO.

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descendants! Several years ago more than 300,000 of them were members of Protestant evangelical churches in the slaveholding States! About 10,000 American negroes, trained chiefly at the South, transplanted to Liberia, now rule nearly 200,000 natives of Africa, and through their schools and churches are spreading the light and love of the Gospel in that land of darkness and heathenism.

It is true that more than nine-tenths of the negroes at the South are still slaves; but is slavery under Christian masters in America, the same evil with slavery under heathen tyrants in Africa? Degraded as these slaves may still be, compared with the sons of the pilgrims in New England, or even with the mass of laborers in some of the enlightened countries in Europe, can 3,000,000 or 1,000,000 negroes, bond or free, be found in any part of the world, who can compare, for good condition, physical, intellectual and moral, with the 3,000,000 slaves at the South? Has Christianity, aided by all the wealth of British Christians, done as much during the last twenty years for the elevation of the 800,000 emancipated negroes in the West Indies, British philanthropists themselves being the judges of what it has effected there, as it has done during the same period for the elevation of our 3,000,000 American slaves?

WHO GEN. WALKER IS.

William Walker, the filibuster of Nicaragua, was born in Nashville, Tenn., and is now about thirty-three years old. His father is James Walker, Esq., a citizen of Nashville, of Scottish birth, and very much respected. His mother was a Miss Norvell, an estimable lady, from Kentucky. Walker, after quitting school in his native State, which he did with much credit and honor, commenced the study of medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated. He then went to Europe, entered the medical schools of Paris as a student, received a diploma there, and after some time spent in travel, returned to this country, went to Nashville, and commenced the study and the practice of the law. Walker is thus both lawyer and physician. From Nashville he went to New Orleans, and was for some time editor of The Crescent. In June, 1850, he went to San Francisco, and became one of the editors of The Herald. While in this position an article appeared in The Herald animadverting upon the Judiciary, to which exception was taken by Judge Parsons, of the District Court, who forthwith summoned him before his Court, and inflicted on the editor a fine of \$500.—This Walker refused to pay and was accordingly imprisoned, but was subsequently discharged on a writ of habeas corpus, issued from the Superior Court, which action was sustained by the Legislature at the next session. The next enterprise in which Walker was engaged was the famous expedition to Sonora, with the disastrous result of which our readers are as familiar as they are with his more recent history.

EXECUTION OF THREE MURDERS.

We find in the Lafayette (Ind.) Courier, of Friday, an account of the execution of three murderers—Rice, Driskill and Stocking. The Courier says: At ten minutes past two o'clock, this P. M., Stocking, Rice, and Driskill were duly executed by the hands of the sheriff, Tho's Jefferson Chism—the first named for the murder of John Rose, and the two latter for the murder of Coplas Fahrbaugh.

REV. RUFUS W. GRISWOLD.

Ten or twelve years ago, Rufus W. Griswold, (now a Baptist minister,) the author, married a wife in South Carolina, and resided at Charleston six or seven years—after which he removed to Pennsylvania, and made an unsuccessful application for a divorce. He then sent her a paper for signature, acknowledging she had abandoned him without cause—which she refused to sign; she was then residing in New Jersey, with their daughter, of whom she had been appointed guardian, without any opposition on his part. This child he forcibly took from her, offering to restore the daughter, if the mother would sign the paper he had sent her—so that he could marry again. Implored by letters from the daughter, and advised that a signature thus wrung from her would avail nothing, she reluctantly signed the falsehood to obtain the child. Mrs. G. then wrote to the woman her husband was addressing, stating these circumstances—but was surprised afterwards to see a notice of her husband's marriage. Having received no notice of any divorce being granted, she consulted her counsel—who examined the records, discovered that the papers in the case had been removed from the office of the prothonotary, and was informed by the judge that a decree of divorce had been granted on the representation that she consented to it. The loss of the papers prevented an appeal to the Supreme Court, but her attorney, David Paul Brown, Esq., of Philadelphia, has taken a rule to show cause why the decree should not be annulled, on the ground of fraud. This is a strange case, and put the Rev. Mr. Griswold in an unenviable position before the public.

OFFICE BEGGING.—About three years ago a young man presented himself to Mr. Corwin for a clerkship. Thrice he was refused; and still he made an effort. His perseverance and spirit of determination awakened a friendly interest in his welfare, and the Secretary advised him in the strongest possible terms, to abandon his purpose and go to the West, and see if he could do no better outside the Department. "My young friend," said he, "go to the Northwest; buy 160 acres of Government land—or if you have not the money to purchase, squat on it; get you an axe and a mattock; put up a log cabin for a habitation, and raise a little corn and potatoes; keep your conscience clear, and live like a freeman; your own master, with no one to give you orders, and without dependence upon anybody. Do that, and you will become honored, respected, influential, and rich. But accept a clerkship here, and you sink at once all independence; your energies become relaxed, and you are unfitted in a few years for any other and more independent position. I may give you a place to-day, and I can kick you out to-morrow; and there's another man over at the White House who can kick me out, and so we go. But if you own an acre of land, it is your kingdom, and your cabin is your castle—you are a sovereign and you will feel it in every throbbing of your pulse, and every day of your life would assure me of your thanks for hitherto advised you."

At a public meeting of the Mardian Mechanics Institution at Manchester, England, on the 14th December, Mr. Bright, Member of Parliament, in the course of a speech, deprecating war with the United States, said: "It is true that more than nine-tenths of the negroes at the South are still slaves; but is slavery under Christian masters in America, the same evil with slavery under heathen tyrants in Africa? Degraded as these slaves may still be, compared with the sons of the pilgrims in New England, or even with the mass of laborers in some of the enlightened countries in Europe, can 3,000,000 or 1,000,000 negroes, bond or free, be found in any part of the world, who can compare, for good condition, physical, intellectual and moral, with the 3,000,000 slaves at the South? Has Christianity, aided by all the wealth of British Christians, done as much during the last twenty years for the elevation of the 800,000 emancipated negroes in the West Indies, British philanthropists themselves being the judges of what it has effected there, as it has done during the same period for the elevation of our 3,000,000 American slaves?"

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SEPTUAGINT FORTY-EIGHT MILES LONG.

The bones of six thousand Irishmen line the Railroad from Aspinwall to Panama. Set this down to the credit of "man's inhumanity to man," to the "almighty dollar," to "Yankee enterprise" or what you will—call it mercantile, a diabolical or an osteological fact—it is undoubtedly true. But the road is built, the continent is spanned, and our onward march, our "manifest destiny," has made another demonstration. We may as well look at the entire pile of grim, ghastly facts all at once, as to pick out the glorification alone and sink the gory reality. The road is a fact, and the gulf that swallowed up the human life is another. The sinews that toiled to build the structure seemed to have been destined to be ignoble an end as Falstaff's ragged regiment, or the British army before Sebastopol—food for powder. As a great undertaking, there is no internal or external improvement of modern times that can be any way compared with it.

DEATH BY CHLOROFORM.—On the afternoon of Saturday, the 5th instant, says the Boston Herald, Miss Ida Emery, of this city, visited the office of Dr. Emery, dentist, No. 17 Bromfield street, for the purpose of having a tooth extracted. Chloroform was administered, the usual quantity being given, and upon proceeding to the operation, the Doctor found the lady in a dying condition. Dr. Stedman and another physician were called, and means employed to restore her to consciousness, but without success. She died in the dentist's office, without having manifested any signs of returning animation. The deceased was a young woman, and apparently in good health and spirits when she entered the Doctor's office, but she probably had some organic affection which caused so lamentable a result from the inhalation of the anesthetic agent. Dr. Jackson will test the quality of the chloroform used on the occasion.

DREADFUL MURDER.—We learn from the Georgia Citizen that a most atrocious murder was committed in Twiggs County, on Monday the 5th inst., upon the persons of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. Mr. Taylor was found dead in his bed, and his wife gasping in the agonies of death, each with a large wound in the head, inflicted with the sharp side of an axe. The perpetrator of this foul deed, is supposed to be a negro boy named Lewis, the property of the deceased. It is supposed that it was instigated by a suspicion that he was sold.

A LUCKY ESCAPE.—William Wells, who was several years since sentenced to death in the District of Columbia for murder, had his sentence commuted by President Fillmore, to imprisonment for life. The case was brought up before the United States Supreme Court last week on the ground that the President has no right to commute, and could only grant an unconditional pardon. The Court on Friday decided for the prisoner, and he was set at liberty.

A COOL BIRD.—On Sunday forenoon, says the New York Courier, men were clearing off the sidewalk near Hoe's Foundry, when, after digging away a bank of nearly ten feet, much to their astonishment they came across a knight of the bottle, who had, the evening previous, taken lodgings on the sidewalk. His breath had made a chamber in the snow, and when discovered he was sleeping with as much composure as if in a feather bed. But a slight touch with the shovel was sufficient to render him conscious of his whereabouts.

SINGULAR CASE OF CRIME.—Leverson Thomas, a man of seventy-five years of age, was tried and convicted at Pittsburg recently upon the charge of forging a promissory note for \$455. Thomas is a man of wealth, and possessed much influence in Washington county, Pa., where he resided.

The Suffering at the Cape de Verde Islands.—Dr. Barclay, of the U. S. sloop-of-war Dale, which has just arrived at Norfolk, from the western coast of Africa, confirms the statement that the inhabitants of San Antonio, Cape de Verde, numbering about 30,000, were actually in a state of starvation. For want of other provisions, they were killing and eating all their jackasses, &c., and were really in a most deplorable condition. The officers of the Dale have been eye-witnesses of the intense suffering of these people.

PROLIFIC.—The Louisville Journal of the 4th instant says: "A Mrs. Rhodes, of this city, on Thursday last, had four babies at a birth—two boys and two girls. They are all very well indeed, and the mother is much better than could be expected. We have spoken of her as 'Mrs. Rhodes,' but we beg her pardon—she is the Mrs. Rhodes. We hope she is a good American, for if the Sag-Nicht women are breeding at such a rate, the condition of affairs is alarming."

A WIDOW NO LONGER.—Last night Fanny Fern, the caustic, fiery Fanny, was united in the bondage of wedlock, to James Parton, Esq. She has been lecturing the public for some time past; we trust Mr. Parton will now receive the benefit of her disquisitions.

The lucky bridegroom is the unfortunate sub-editor, who fingers in such a lacerating manner in "Ruth Hall," and the generous heart of Fanny has, we presume, been "teched" with his misfortunes. We hope Fanny will not be compelled to take up the lamentation of Widow Bedott, as follows: "Oh! full forty dollars would I give If we had continued apart."

LONDON THE GREATEST CITY.—This is now the greatest city in the world and far surpasses all the great cities of antiquity. According to Gibbon, the population of ancient Rome, in the height of its magnificence, was 1,200,000; Nineveh is estimated to have had 600,000; and Dr. Medhurst supposes that the population of Pekin is about 2,000,000. The population of London, according to recent statistics, amounts to 2,500,000—414,722 having been added to it during the last ten years. The census shows that it contains 307,732 inhabitants, and 16,589 uninhabited houses.

REPARTEE.—In the House of Representatives, last week, Mr. Giddings, while delivering a speech, said that Mr. Richardson was like Balaam's ass—he would not speak! "It is true," said Mr. Richardson, in reply, "I am somewhat like Balaam; when I am in the presence of the gentleman from Ohio, I let the ass speak!" This, of course, occasioned much laughter.

REHOBOTH FURNACE.

SITUATED on the Plank Road, 25 miles from Charlotte, and 8 miles from Lincoln, in Lincoln County, is now in full operation, and is prepared to do

All kinds of Casting.

Orders for Machinery or Hollow-Ware promptly attended to. Also, Pig Iron for sale at the Works. Our workmen are not inferior to any in the State, and the Furnace is superintended by one of the Firm who has had 25 years' experience in the business.

Our address is "Cottage Home, Lincoln county, N. C." SMITH, REINHARDT & CO. Jan. 8, 1856—4t.

CLARENDON IRON WORKS, Wilmington, N. C.

J. H. VANBOKKELEN, Proprietor. THE subscriber having purchased the entire interest in the Clarendon Iron Works, solicits orders for

Saw Mills of every variety, Mining Machinery and Pumps, Grist and Flour Mills, complete. Cast-iron and Brass Water-wheels, Rice-field Pumps and Engines, Levitt's Corn and Cob Crusher, Rice Thrashers, Shingle Machines, Shifting Hoists and Pulleys, Cotton-line and Gearing, Iron Castings of all kinds and patterns, Brass Locomotive and Tubular Boilers, Flue and plain Cylinder Boilers, Iron Smith work of all kinds, Brass and Iron castings, &c. &c. THE ESTABLISHMENT Having been re-organized for the express purpose of attending punctually to the execution of all orders, the public may rest satisfied that any work which may offer will be promptly delivered according to promise, and of such workmanship as cannot be given elsewhere. THE MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT Being in charge of men of talents and experience, I have no hesitation in saying that the work hereafter turned out, shall compare favorably in every respect with that of the most celebrated in the State, and at prices which will make it to the interest of all in want to send me their orders.

REPAIR WORK Always done without delay—and having a large force for that purpose, it will prove advantageous to any person needing such to give me the preference without regard to expense of sending same from a distance. Orders will be addressed to "Clarendon Iron Works," Wilmington, N. C. A. H. VANBOKKELEN. Oct. 23, '55—1f.

RAILROAD HOTEL, CHESTER, S. C.

By J. R. NICHOLSON. THE subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public generally, that his house, known as the "Rail Road Hotel," opposite the Chester Depot, is still open for the reception of regular and transient boarders and the travelling public; and that he is making every exertion to deserve and secure a continuance of the kind and liberal patronage which has hitherto been extended to him. He flatters himself that every needed arrangement has been made to promote the comfort of all who visit him: his rooms are airy and well-furnished, his servants are attentive and obedient, and his table constantly supplied with the best of the season, so that his friends will not want any attention necessary to make their sojourn pleasant and agreeable. His tables are furnished with good hucksters and an abundance of provender, and he is prepared at a moment's notice to supply his customers with private conveyances of every sort, to any part of the surrounding country. He desires to return his acknowledgments to the public for past favors, and solicits for the future an equally liberal share of patronage. Aug. 20, 1854. 5-tf

Wilmington, Charlotte, & Rutherfordton Rail Road.

PURCHASE an order of the Board of Directors of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherfordton Rail Road Company, looks again open for subscriptions to the Capital Stock of said Road, at the Rock Island Store, and the offices of Wm. Johnston, C. J. Fox, and S. W. Davis. All who are interested in the honor and prosperity of the old North State, are solicited to come forward and aid in this great work, the only real public enterprise that has ever sprung upon our people. CHARLES FOX, W. DAVIS, WM. JOHNSTON, JNO. A. YOUNG, JOHN WALKER, LEROY SPRINGS, B. H. AYLISON, Commissioners. Oct. 1855, 23. 13-tf

NEW BOOKS FOR SALE AT LOWRIE AND ENNIS'S STORE.

The Slave of the Lamp, a Posthumous Novel, by William North Ingenuo, or the first days of the Dawn, by Alexander Dumas. Translated from the original manuscript, by William North Ingenuo, and published by W. Gilmore Simms. The Castle Builders, by the author of "Heart's Ease," "The Heir of Radcliffe," "Scenes and Chances," &c. The Old Inn, or the Travellers' Entertainment, by Josiah Barnes, Sen. The above are all the very latest and most popular novels of the day. We constantly keep on hand a large and well selected stock of authors of every kind, and are constantly receiving all the new books that are being published, and books that we have not got, we can get on the shortest notice. June 22 1855. 48-t.

A. BETHUNE, TAILOR.

No. 5, Springs' Row, 4 DOORS EAST OF THE CHARLOTTE BANK CHARLOTTE, N. C. Feb. 16, 1855. 30-t

CHAPPED HANDS AND LIPS.

As this is the very kind of weather that chaps up, sausage-fashion, many of our readers' lips and hands, we would with all respect to the medical fraternity, of course suggest a very simple remedy to prevent or remove its unpleasant effects. A little mutton suet rubbed on them just before going to bed will excel all the "lip salves" a quack doctor ever thought of. Try it.

The most intense suffering from poverty is not to be found in the ranks of mere destitution and rags, but where the heart is being wrung, and conscience stifled in vain efforts to sustain a false position, and prevent a little longer the bubble from bursting.

In Sweden a man who is seen four times drunk is not allowed to vote at elections.

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