

WESTERN DEMOCRAT.

A Family Paper, devoted to State Intelligence, the News of the World, Political Information, Southern Rights, Agriculture, Literature, and Miscellany.

BY JOHN J. PALMER, Editor and Proprietor.

CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

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Dec. 25, 1855.—H. W. JORDAN, for J. Adkinson.

FROM SEBASTOPOL. THERE is nothing new from the Crimea, by the latest arrival, but at Sebastopol, on Trade-Street, there is something new.

The undersigned has purchased of James Bryant, his grocery and Liquor establishment, and invites the public to give him a call, assuring them that he will accommodate them with articles of the best quality, and in a style to suit the most fastidious taste. Give Sebastopol a call, and judge for yourselves.

W. H. PHELAN. Feb. 5, 1856.—H. W. PHELAN.

Fresh Fluid and Camphine. AT PRITCHARD'S Drug Store, you will get these articles pure. Fluid at \$1 per gallon.—Camphine 90 cents, each. April 8, 1856.

S. W. DAVIS, Attorney & Counsellor at Law, CHARLOTTE, N. C. Jan. 1, 1856.—H.

ROBERT P. WARING, Attorney at Law, Charlotte, N. C. (Office in building attached to the American Hotel, Main street.) Jan. 22, 1856.—H.

Dr. R. Wyson CHARLOTTE, N. C. HAVING located in this place, respectfully offers his Professional Services to the citizens of the town and vicinity.

ROBERT GIBBON, M. D. OFFERS his professional services to the public, in the practice of SURGERY, in all his various departments.

A CARD. DR. SAM'L L. & JOSEPH W. CALDWELL have this day associated themselves in the practice of Medicine, and one of the other of them can at all times be found at their office, next door to the State Bank, upstairs, unless professionally engaged.

DR. P. C. CALDWELL will be at the Office of Doctors J. W. & S. L. Caldwell from 8 to 10 o'clock, every morning. After that hour, he will be at his own house, subject to the call of any of his friends, unless professionally absent.

MRS. WHEALAN, Dress Maker, Opposite the Post-Office.

ALL DRESSES cut and made by the celebrated A-B-C method, and warranted to fit. BONNETS Trimmed in the latest style, at the shortest notice. Charlotte, Feb. 12, 1856.—H.

MRS. M. J. CRAIG, Dress Maker, Three doors below Trotter's Carriage Manufactory CHARLOTTE. April 22, 1856.—H.

SADDLE and Harness. HAVING made more extensive preparations for the Manufacture of SADDLES and HARNESS, He would respectfully inform the citizens of North Carolina, that he is now prepared to furnish SADDLES and HARNESS of a superior quality, of his own manufacture, at the Very Lowest Possible Prices.

MERCHANTS' Wanting Saddles. By leaving their orders, can be furnished as low as they can procure the same at the North. S. M. HOWELL. April 15, 1856.—H.

BOOKS For Sale AT THE CHARLOTTE BOOK STORE.

THE NEW PURCHASE, OR EARLY YEARS IN THE FAR WEST.—By Robert Carlton. THE ADVENTURES OF HALJI BABA in Turkey, Persia, and Russia.—Edited by James Morier. STANHOPE BURLEIGH, The Jesuites in our Homes.—One of the most interesting Novels that has been written in many years.—by Helen Dhu.

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LEXICON OF FREE MASONRY. Containing a definition of all its communicable terms. The True Masonic Chart, by J. L. Cross, G. L. Mackey's Altman Key to South Carolina. The New Masonic Trustee Board. The Free-Mason's Manual, by Rev'd K. J. Stewart.

THE ODD FELLOWS' MANUAL, by the Rev. A. B. Grash. LOWRIE & ENNIS, Book-Sellers. Charlotte, March 4, 1856.

FASHIONABLE TAILORING. THE subscriber announces to the public generally, that he is now receiving a large assortment of new

Cloths, Cassimeres and VESTINGS, for Gentlemen's wear, and will be sold for Cash at a small profit, or made to order according to the latest styles. Shop next door to Elm's Grocery Store. D. L. REA. S. pt. 29, 1854.—H.

REMOVAL. R. W. Beckwith has removed his Jewelry Store to No. 2, Johnston's Row, three doors South of Kerr's Hotel. 30-1y Feb. 16, 1855.

A. BETHUNE, TAILOR, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

POLITICAL.

[The following was crowded out of our last paper by news articles claiming precedence.]

KNOW-NOTHING MEETING.

On Wednesday, the 14th inst., a Know-Nothing meeting took place at the Court-House of Mecklenburg. It was dignified by the Order, with the name of "Convention;" but as no Delegates appeared, so far as the proceedings would show, we are justified in using the term "meeting." It was intended as a Convention of Know Nothings from ten counties, to select an Elector for President and Vice President in this (the 7th) District; but so meagre in number were the Delegates in attendance, it was resolved not to call the roll, as usual, but to appoint all "Americans" present as members of the Convention. This resolution made us a member, who happened to be in the Court-House, but we did not feel it our duty to take part in the proceedings. The Chairman was a fine-looking old gentleman, on crutches, from Cabarrus county. We sympathized with him in his affliction, while we deemed him an appropriate representative of his party, as it is also on crutches. In all dangerous cases Dr. P. C. Caldwell will act as consulting physician, free of charge.

DR. P. C. CALDWELL will be at the Office of Doctors J. W. & S. L. Caldwell from 8 to 10 o'clock, every morning. After that hour, he will be at his own house, subject to the call of any of his friends, unless professionally absent.

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pursuance of a plain Constitutional provision, requiring the North and all other sections, to surrender our slave property when it shall escape from us. A bill, too, that was coupled as it were with three other bills, the whole forming a Siamese connexion and dubbed the Compromise bills.— Measures, as a whole, supported by Clay, Webster, and nearly the entire Whig party of the country.—Mr. Fillmore's own party, at the time. And yet, notwithstanding the imperative circumstances under which the fugitive slave bill went up to him for signature—notwithstanding it was passed under an express provision of the Constitution, Mr. Fillmore hesitated about signing it—thought it was unconstitutional, &c!! Many of his leading friends, however, were in favor of it—another Presidential election was approaching—the bill was an arm of three other forming a body, all making concessions to free-soilism—the fugitive slave bill being the only share of the South in the Compromise,—and Mr. F., under these circumstances, did finally, though hesitatingly and reluctantly, consent to sign it! And this one single act is to give the lie to Mr. Fillmore's whole political career, and prove that he is no abolitionist!! Wonderful proof, truly, of soundness, on the slavery question! And what reason does his Northern friends assign for the act? The New Albany Tribune says:

"Mr. Fillmore gave his official sanction to the Fugitive Slave bill because 'we got other laws on which our hearts were set, that we should not have got, had not that law been passed also,' and because 'in doing so he was but carrying out one of the great principles of the party which elected him—that the personal opinions of the Executive, on mere questions of policy, ought never to be brought into conflict with the will of the people's representatives, by an arbitrary exercise of the veto power.'"

The Tribune also informs its readers that Mr. Fillmore would just as readily sign bills restoring the Missouri restriction, and repealing or amending the Fugitive Slave law. We have not the slightest doubt but that the Tribune is correctly informed upon the subject, and that should the Senate, during his term, become as thoroughly abolitionized as the House is now, Congress will find in Mr. F. a willing agent for carrying out their measures.

The signing of the Compromise bills, as the Petersburg Democrat remarks, "is the only trophy of Ex-President Fillmore, the only act of his life which his friends can extract from a lengthy record, on which to claim for him the slightest countenance at the hands of the Southern people. Show them that he was an advocate of the Wilmot Proviso, and they say he signed the Compromise Bill. Point to his speeches on behalf of abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, and you are told that he signed the Compromise Bill. Read them the Buffalo letter, and again comes up that everlasting Compromise Bill. Now this Compromise Bill, the solitary Southern feather amid the waving free-soil plume that adorns Mr. Fillmore's head, was a measure which it would have staggered the unblushing assurance of a Giddings to have vetoed under the circumstances. It was proposed by one great leader of the party which placed Mr. Fillmore in his seat, and sustained by the other. It was a far greater concession to Northern than to Southern ultraists, and was denounced by some of the ablest men of this section of the Union. To have vetoed it would have been as great a violence to what we may call, following the latest nomenclature, "national whiggery," as to democracy, and would have subjected him to as much denunciation from the one as the other."

So much for Millard Fillmore's course up to the close of his Administration. There was, in truth, nothing inconsistent with his uniform abolitionism, before he became President, or repudiating in the smallest degree his declared sentiments and his votes in Congress, in favor of fanaticism. And what has he said or done since, to show that he is sound on the slavery question? Nothing. His opinions on this vital subject are kept in the dark. Is he in favor of a bill for the admission of territories, as States, freed from any restriction on the subject of Slavery? Or is he in favor of the repeal of the Kansas-Nebraska bill? Who can answer these questions? No person! And yet we find the Know Nothing party "going it blind" for Millard Fillmore—not knowing what his sentiments on these vital questions are, at this momentous crisis, further than they have been revealed by his uniform course of abolitionism! Read his record—look at his "sealed book" on the present questions agitating and threatening the very salvation of the Union, and who can believe that Southerners, familiar with the facts, will be found supporting him? The South, we are sure, will never trust a man who keeps dark on the Kansas-Nebraska questions—a man who has always, when he had an opportunity to do so, acted in favor of abolitionism. With the bare exception of the signing of the fugitive slave bill, Mr. Fillmore, while President, acted in accordance with his uniform sentiments, so far as he had opportunity. He pardoned some other convicted of slave stealing, and did other acts showing which way the "wind blew."

We pass to another subject.—Mr. Dargan, the new Elector, after belaboring President

Pierce and the Democratic party for some time, came at last to the "furriners" and Catholics, when he became grandiloquent. The poor Catholics were anathematized in the severest terms. He would not vote for one, for any office—and from the excitement which he exhibited on the subject, we could not but think he would take pleasure in having a Catholic roasted every morning for his breakfast. He was savage as a meat-axe upon the Catholic religion, while he was quite complimentary upon Protestantism. In this, we could not help shyly thinking, there was an object. But, we will not assign motives, whatever we may think. If the voters, however, were nearly all Catholics instead of Protestants, it is probable that so much fiery indignation would not have been exhibited against them. We felt at the time curious to know whether or not the speaker was a pious member of any church, although we must say, if he is a member of a church, he did not exhibit a very christian spirit on the occasion to which we allude. Illiberal denunciation of one church against another, is no evidence of a genuine spirit of Christianity. Each branch of Professors would do well to aim to secure their own salvation, without meddling themselves about their neighbor's religion. If they can manage to secure their own salvation, it will probably be as much as they will be able to accomplish. The Know Nothing party finding fault with the religion of others! Is it not funny? O, the pious souls! They are all bound for heaven, no doubt! Thousands of them with no religion at all—never had any, and in all probability never will have any, finding fault with the religion of others! Oh, consistency, thou art a jewel! Swagging about the streets, high ways, and byways denouncing the Catholic religion, while they have no religion of any kind themselves! We do not wish to be understood as advocates or apologists of the Catholic religion. We are amongst those who care but little about professions, whether Catholic or Protestant. We respect all, by whatsoever name they may bear, who are sincere and conscientious in their religious opinions, let them be however so much mistaken in their faith. If a man acknowledges his accountability to, and dependence upon God, and worships him in spirit and in truth, by doing unto others as he would be done by, we care not whether he be Protestant or Catholic. Hypocrites, with which, we fear, the world has many, we despise—and we have no doubt they are to be found in all Churches, Protestant as well as Catholic. But, what has a man's religious belief to do with his patriotism? Cannot he be a good citizen and love his country, if he is a believer in the Catholic Church? Know-Nothingism, in effect, says he cannot, for it not only proscribes him and denies him the privilege of holding any office of trust, but goes so far as to say that he is not to be trusted even if he has married a Catholic woman! Is not this alone sufficient to show the illiberality and absurdity of the warfare against Catholicism? An American born, with merits as a citizen of the very highest order, is to be proscribed, and placed as it were on the footing of the negro, who is not allowed to hold office, simply because he may have accidentally married a Catholic girl! This feature of Know-Nothingism ought alone to damn it, for illiberality and absurdity, without any other of its many odious and nonsensical features. But, say this new Order of Religionists, the Pope of Rome governs the Church here, and we suppose wives, like the Pope, govern their husbands. The Pope of Rome and the Catholics "ruling America!" The very essence and quintessence of nonsense! The seventh census shows that the number of foreigners in this country are 2,240,535, and the natives 20,031,569—two foreigners to every twenty natives, and yet we are in danger of foreigners! Let war break out to-morrow with England, and who will be first and foremost in offering their services to fight our battles? Why these much-abused and now alleged disloyal Irishmen. Who fought our battles with Mexico? Thousands of Irishmen, side by side with our own countrymen, making war against Catholic Mexico—thus giving the lie to the charge that a Catholic is to his country disloyal and untrue where his Church is concerned. All Churches have their Popes, so far as influence over their members is concerned, but we would not undertake to say that that influence in any case is exercised against the interests of the country, for we do not, unlike Know-Nothingism, believe that it is, in any case.—Who was it defended Suttie, of Alexandria, when he went to Boston after his runaway slave, Anthony Burns? A Boston mob of Abolitionists were surrounding Suttie's hotel, threatening every moment his life, for attempting to secure his property, when a large body of Irishmen went forward and assured him that if he should be murdered, the abolitionists would first have to walk over their dead bodies. And what companies were they that were disbanded in Massachusetts, for turning out on that occasion to defend a Southerner? The Irish companies. It is the abolitionists, not the foreigners, that this country, that this Union, have to dread. A plank in the Know-Nothing platform against them, would have some merit in it—but, Know-Nothingism can see no objection to Abolitionism, if we are to judge by their acts. Why was the

"12th section," the only southern splinter in the Know-Nothing platform, repudiated and discarded by the National Convention of Know-Nothings at Philadelphia, in February last? It has been asserted, because Millard Fillmore could not walk on to the platform with that plank in it, and, this we think it probable, was one of the reasons for throwing it out. If, however, Catholics err in their religious faith and must be put down, let the Protestants, who number twenty to one, carry on the war against them. Let Church fight against Church—if there must be a fight on religious subjects. Uniting Church and State matters, and involving the political parties of the Country with religious subjects, is altogether wrong. It has proved to be the bane and destruction of society and government, wherever civil and religious matters have become blended, from the earliest to the latest periods of history. Why should Know-Nothings agitate this subject? Why should they endeavor to build up a subject on which they can have no political action? You are forbidden to act by the Constitution of the United States. The Constitution says, that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Take this case: Suppose a President having sworn in Know-Nothing councils that he will appoint no Roman Catholic to office, is elected. He takes an oath to support the Constitution of the United States. That Constitution says, that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." Suppose, then, a man is presented for office; does he not have to inquire, under his first oath, if the man is a Catholic? If he is, then he must refuse him on that account. If he does so refuse him, he violates his last oath, because he then swore he would make "no religious test." Is comment necessary?

The new Elector held the President responsible for the troubles in Kansas; but he did not undertake to show in what manner the President became responsible.—When he undertakes such a task, it will be to show that the President is to blame for arraying himself against the free-soilers, and refusing to allow them to run rough-shod over the Constitution, law, justice, equal and southern rights, to establish abolitionism and a bastard government in Kansas. There are those who are so much opposed to "slavery agitation" that they deem it best to let abolitionism have its own way, for the sake of peace and quiet; and Mr. Dargan may be among those who thus think; but there are others who hold altogether a different opinion. The Elector also charged President Pierce with the responsibility of the present difficulty with England. His memory here again was so conveniently oblivious as to cause him to forget to state that to Mr. Fillmore's administration is due the origin of the difficulty. The Clayton-Bulwer treaty was such a bungling piece of work, that the English construed it one way and our Government another way; and the external relations of the country generally were left by the Fillmore Cabinet in confusion and embarrassment. President Pierce has been constantly engaged with the settlement of disputes; but his inheritance of litigation was so great, that he has not yet quite relieved the estate of the inheritance. The insolence of England he has rebuked by a demand of apology and redress that will not be denied. By insisting on the rigid performance of treaty stipulations, he has compelled Great Britain to relax her grasp of aggression in Central America, and has vindicated the sanctity of a treaty which, though the single diplomatic achievement (bungling as it was) of the late Whig administration, was by them abandoned to the contempt and insult of our adversary. President Pierce has also honorably and satisfactorily closed several irritating and alarming disputes. He has reconciled the conflicting claims of the Fisheries, by a treaty which secured substantial advantages to the people of this country. He has adjusted a disagreeable difficulty with France, in a manner that strengthened the relations of good understanding and amity between the two nations. He has enforced ample apology and restitution to an American citizen who, in the distant East, was despoiled of his property and insulted in his person. From Spain he has extorted indemnity for certain wrongs, and a promise of a redress of other grievances. By an attitude of firm but courteous remonstrance, he has driven Denmark to an abandonment of its absurd pretensions to levy tribute on the commerce of the Baltic. By a wise and vigorous policy, he has kept the country clear of the complications of the Eastern war, at the same time that he has compelled a respectful observance of our neutral rights. The great principle of the inviolability of neutral commerce, he has established on the impregnable basis of acknowledged public law. In short, while President Pierce has extorted indemnity for old wrongs and outstanding claims, he has extended and strengthened the amicable, commercial alliances of the country in every direction.

The new Elector found another subject of complaint against the Administration.—The public expenditures were larger, he said, than they had ever been before. He forgot to state, however, that for the first time in the history of the Government, we

have so much surplus money in the public treasury that we are at a loss to know what to do with it. There are at this time about twenty-five millions of dollars lying idle in the treasury, while the Government is eagerly embracing every opportunity presented for paying public debts in anticipation of the time at which they become due.—That the expenditures have increased is not wonderful. It is a natural result of the expansion and growth of the country. The expenditures, we apprehend, will continue to increase with the rapid progress of our country. The receipts, however, have increased, and will we have no doubt continue to increase in a corresponding ratio. The resources necessary to govern and control a country of the vast extent of ours, are necessarily large; though for one we hope the entire resources may be expended, if it be done for legitimate purposes and for developing the infant proportions of our republic and for strengthening and protecting us as a great nation. We have no desire to see a plethoric treasury, over which factions may be contending and wrangling for the spoils. Strengthen our navy, increase our mail facilities, that information may be spread among the people. An enlightened people cannot be the dupes of demagogues or be enslaved. Appropriate the money to almost any use, rather than let it lie idle in the treasury as a temptation to corruption. Who is prepared to say what use a government of northern fanatics would make of an overflowing treasury? And who can tell what the Know-Nothing party, who are making a great clamor over present expenditures, would do with the money, if they could succeed in getting their clutches on the public purse-strings? Of the happening of this contingency, however, we have no fears. The people will never trust them, unless they mend their principles and their manners. The charge of an extravagant expenditure of money by President Pierce, in the Elector's indictment, only proved that he was hard run for subjects of complaint against the Administration. The President cannot touch a dollar, until it has been appropriated for a specific purpose.

After the new Elector had "delivered himself" of his long-corked up abhorptions on Gen. Pierce and his measures, we expected him to tell us what were the principles of his candidate for the Presidency, what measures he would advocate, and what reforms he would introduce, differing from those of the present Administration, of which he found so much fault. But, we were doomed to disappointment. The Elector evidently knew that the least said is soonest mended, and he accordingly said nothing. Of Mr. Donelson, he said, he knew nothing—and this was all the notice that this renegade Democrat received from the new Elector.

There were three other orators on this interesting occasion—Gen. J. A. Young, J. G. Bynum, and V. C. Barringer. We have not time and space to notice, except very briefly, their labored efforts. One of the number (Mr. Bynum) declared that Banks was elected Speaker by the Democratic party! When the truth is, every Democrat in the House of Representatives voted against him. Before the meeting of Congress the Know Nothings were in the habit of boasting of having 50 majority in that body. When they selected Banks as their candidate,—a man who is unable to determine which is the superior, the white man or the negro—this large Know Nothing majority, Southern Know Nothings would have us believe, all at once dwindled down to some 30 or 40—the little squad of Fuller factionists! And thus they attempt to get rid of the odium of electing Banks—and actually go so far as to assert that they, who had a majority of 50 before the assembling of Congress, had no part or lot in the election of Banks! Is the Fuller vote of 30 or 40 the full Know Nothing (or "American" if you please) strength in Congress? If so, it shows rather badly for the success of Millard Fillmore. His party—the Know Nothing party—12 months ago with 50 majority in Congress, now dwindled down to 30 or 40! But this classification is not the true one. There is still a clear Know Nothing majority in the House of Representatives. A member recently rose in his place and named them, from A to Z—and not one of the number dared deny the correctness of the classification. And in the face of all these facts, Mr. Bynum asserts that the Democrats elected Banks, when the truth is, as we have already remarked, not a single Democrat voted for him! There is, we admit, a shade of difference between Northern and Southern Know Nothingism—and this shade constitutes the only difference. It is the "black" shade—the "nigger" shade. Northern Know Nothingism having foreigners, Catholics, and "niggers" in their platform, and Southern Know Nothingism with foreigners and Catholics and no "nigger" feature in their platform. The one is "black" Republican Know Nothingism—the other white "American" (not African) Know Nothingism. That is the only difference. They are all Know-Nothings, *alias* "Americans," with the same principles, with the single exception of the "nigger" feature. Mr. Bynum, after indulging very liberally in the poet's license, in making other charges against the Democratic party, closed his speech by relating an anecdote of a