North Carolina Argus.

JOHN W. CAMERON, PUBLISHER.

This Argus o'er the People's rights doth an eternal vigil keep: No soothing strain of Maia's Son can lull his hundred eyes to sleep.

TERMS: TWO DOLLARS IN ADVANCE.

New Series.—Vol. III.—No. 42 | Fayetteville, N. C. Saturday October 25, 1856. | Whole No. 146.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY,
BY
JOHN W. CAMERON,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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J. C. POE,

DEALER IN

Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots Shoes, and Ready Made Clothing.

Particular attention paid to LADIES' DRESS GOODS and TRIMMINGS.

Hay Street, Fayetteville, N. C.

May 25, 1855. 72-tf

B. B. HOPKINS, WM. H. BEAN,
ROBERT HULL, THOS. W. ATKINSON.

Hopkins, Hull & Co.

WHOLESALE

DRY GOODS MERCHANTS,

No. 258 Baltimore Street,

(Opposite Hanover Street,)

BALTIMORE, MD.

February, 1854. 4-y

WM. H. HAIGH,

Attorney at Law,

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

OFFICE ON OLD STREET.

January, 1854. 1-1y.

"Law Copartnership."

We, the undersigned, have this day formed a Law Copartnership, and will practice in the Courts of the following counties of this State: Chatham, Cumberland, Moore, Harnett, and the Supreme Court.

J. H. HAUGHTON,
JNO. MANNING.

Pittsborough, N. C., Jan'y 1, 1856. 112-tf

J. A. SPEARS,

ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Attends the Courts of Cumberland, Harnett, Wake, and Johnson.

Address, Toomer, Harnett Co., N. C.

110-1y.

W. P. ELLIOTT,

GENERAL COMMISSION AND FORWARDING MERCHANT,

Wilmington, N. C.

June 13, 1854. 23-tf

DR. K. A. BLACK,

OFFICE FRONT ROOMS, OVER

Dr. S. J. Hinsdale's

Chemist and Drug Store.

February 7, 1856. 109-tf

ANDREW J. STEDMAN,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

PITTSBOROUG, N. C.

Will attend the County and Superior Courts of Chatham, Moore, and Harnett Counties.

July 14, 1855. 79-tf

WINSLOW

Attorney at Law.

Office on the South side of Hay street, opposite the Fayetteville Bank.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

February, 1854. 71y

R. H. SANDFORD,

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR

AT LAW.

Office at Dr. Hall's New Building, on Bow Street.

Sept. 1855, 1855-88ly

A. M. Campbell,

Auctioneer and Commission Merchant,

GILLESPIE STREET,

Fayetteville, N. C.

Feb'y 10, 1854. 6-Y

Charles Banks,

CONFECTIONER,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN

Foreign Fruits, Nuts, Cigars, Tobacco, Snuff,

GREEN STREET,

Fayetteville, N. C.

January 16, 1854. 2-tf

S. M. THOMAS,

DEALER IN

FANCY AND STAPLE DRY GOODS,

READY-MADE CLOTHING,

Hats, Caps, Bonnets, Boots and Shoes, Sheetings, Cotton Yarns, Kerseys, Blankets, &c., &c.

CORNER MARKET and GILLESPIE St., Fayetteville, N. C.

J. S. BANKS,

COMMISSION AND FORWARDING

MERCHANT.

WILMINGTON, North Carolina.

Jan. 5, 1855. 104-1y

DAVID McDUFFIE,

BRICK MASON AND PLASTERER,

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.,

Respectfully tenders his services to persons in this and the adjoining counties wishing work done in his line.

July 18, 1856. 132-1y

COOK & JOHNSON,

IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN

English, German, and American Hardware and Cutlery.

January 10, 1854. 1tf

Second Stock.

B. F. PEARCE

Is now receiving, direct from New York, his second Stock of

Fall and Winter Dry Goods,

Among which may be found, the latest and most fashionable styles of Ladies' Dress Goods, Cloaks, Mantillas, and all styles of Embroidery.

Also GENTLEMEN'S GOODS of every variety, which will be sold CHEAP at wholesale or retail. The Ladies are respectfully invited to give me a call.

B. F. PEARCE.

Hay Street, Fayetteville, Oct. 9, 1856. 144-tf

Head-Quarters 33d Reg't N. C. Militia,
FAYETTEVILLE, Sept. 20, 1856.

The Commandants of the several Companies of the 33d Regiment North Carolina Militia are hereby ordered to [illegible] their [illegible] at their [illegible] places, on or before the 15th October next.

By order of the Colonel Commanding.

C. K. LEETE,
Acting Adjutant.

142-3t

SELLING AT COST.

The Subscriber being desirous of removing from this town, offers his

ENTIRE STOCK OF GOODS

on hand at NETT COST for Cash. His Stock embraces Seasonable Dry Goods, **Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c.** A part of his stock he has just received. Country Merchants would do well to call and examine for themselves. Greater inducements for BARGAINS never was offered to any People.—Everybody should call at once and lay in their supplies.

All those that owe him by note or account are respectfully invited to call and make payments. After the 1st of November next an officer will save him the trouble of dunning.

S. M. THOMAS.

Oct. 3, 1856.
Observer copy. tt

A RARE CHANCE!

The Furniture and Fixtures of the Fayetteville Hotel for Sale.

The subscribers having fully determined to sell the above named property, now offer it to an enterprising man upon liberal terms.

This Hotel enjoys a large custom from the adjoining counties and from all the travelling public, with a prospect of future increase. What it has done and is now doing can be seen by any one wishing to purchase referring to our books.

The situation of the building is such that it commands the greater part of the custom coming to and passing through this place.

For the amount of capital invested, there is no business that a person could engage in that would pay as well.

J. H. ROBERTS & CO.

Sept. 11, 1856. 140-tf

JOHN A PEMBERTON

HAS JUST RECEIVED

One of the most desirable Stocks of **Silk and Fancy Staple Goods** ever offered by him, embracing all the newest styles of

LADIES' DRESS GOODS.

Such as Plain and col'd Moir Antique Silks, Rich Ombre Satins, Striped and plain Silk Vallincia, Poplinett Robes, Plain and Brocade Merinoes, Plain, Plaid, and rich Fig'd French DeLains, and a great many other new styles. Also, a large Stock of Velvet, Cloth, and Silk Mantillas, Cloaks and Talmas, Bay State, Stella Plush and Tillie Shawls. A great variety of the latest styles of

DRESS TRIMMINGS,

French Embroideries, Honiton Lace Collars, every color of the best quality of **Kid Gloves** and Gauntlets for Ladies and Gents. A few very handsome patterns Worsted curtain Damask, with trimmings to suit, some very handsome Oil Window Shades.

ALSO, FOR GENTS WEAR.

Black, Blue, and Olive Broad Cloths, Black and Fancy Cassimeres and Vestings. A very large Stock of

READY-MADE CLOTHING

For **Men Youths** and **Boys** made in the latest styles and Workmanship warranted.

The above Stock was selected with great care as regards styles and prices, and will be offered at wholesale or retail, on very accommodating terms. The public generally are respectfully invited to call and examine for themselves.

J. A. PEMBERTON.

Sept. 29, 1856. 141-tf

Dissolution of Co-partnership.

The firm heretofore existing between BALDWIN & ROBINSON, is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

Those having open accounts with us must come forward and settle without delay, or they will find their accounts in the hands of an officer.

Little's Mills, Sept. 20, 1856. 142-tf

Notice.

By virtue of an order, made by his Honor John M. Dick, presiding Judge at the present term of our Superior Court of Law, I hereby give public notice that a Special Term of said Court will be held for the County of Moore, at the Court House in Carthage, on the Fourth Monday in November next, which will be the 24th day of the month when and where all suitors and witnesses of the Civil Docket are required to attend by 10 o'clock by the forenoon of that day.

Witness, Geo. S. Cole, Clerk of said Court, at office, the Monday before the last Monday in August, A. D. 1856. GEO. S. COLE, C. S. C.

Sept. 24, 1856. 142-te

GENTLEMEN'S

Furnishing Establishment.

The undersigned is now receiving, direct from New York, his Fall and Winter Stock of **Clothing** and **Furnishing Goods.**

Having taken unusual pains in the selection of his Goods, he flatters himself that his Stock will compare favorably with any in the market.

Having set out with a determination to sell Goods upon reasonable terms to prompt-paying and Cash customers, he feels that the experience of the past justifies him in asserting, that all Goods sold by him will give entire satisfaction as to style and price.

His Stock consists in part of the following Goods, viz:

Cloth, Beaver, Tweeds and Cassimere Coats,
do do do do over do,
Every variety of style of Vests and Pants,
Hosiery, Gloves, Shirts (Linen and Merino,)
Boots, Shoes, Hats and Caps.

All of which he hopes to be able to sell at as early a day as possible.

All persons who owe me for purchases previous to July last, are earnestly requested to pay up, and keep up their and my good name.

JAMES McPHERSON.
Hay Street, opposite E. Glover's

Sept. 22, 1856. 142-3m.

A Great Remedy and Preventive of Chills, Consumption, &c.

IS a WINTERSUIT from **Woodward's one-price Clothing Store.** Call and purchase before you have a chill one of these frosty mornings.

My Winter Stock is complete, and much larger than I have ever offered before, including a large supply of BOYS' and YOUTHS' CLOTHING.

A. J. WOODWARD.

Market Square, two doors below the *Striped Hogshead*, Fayetteville, N. C. Sept. 28 143-4t

Fall Trade, 1856.

B. F. PEARCE

IS NOW OPENING, a large and desirable Stock of

FALL AND WINTER GOODS,

Consisting in part of

Black and Colored Silks,
English and French Merinos,
Plain and Fig'd DeLanes, some beautiful patterns,
Black and Fancy Alpacas,
Edgings and Insertings,
Collars and Undersleeves,
Cactus and Whalebone Skirts,
Jaconet, Nainsook, Swiss and Plaid Muslins,
French, English and American Pr[illegible],
Cloths and Cassimeres,
Satinetts, Jeans and Tweeds,
Plaids, Linseys and Kerseys,
[illegible]
[illegible]
White and Colored Flannels,
Drillings and Tickings,
Irish Linens, good assortment,
Linen Table Cloths, Towelings and Napkins,
Shawls, Cloaks and Mantillas,
Extra quality of Bed Blankets,
Ribbons, Belts, Gloves, Hosiery, &c.

ALSO,

Hats, Caps, Bonnets, Boots, Shoes and Umbrellas; a general assortment of

Ready-made Clothing,

and every variety in the YANKEE NOTION LINE, which will be sold at a small advance for CASH, or on time to punctual customers, either at WHOLESALE or RETAIL. All are respectfully invited to give me a call before purchasing elsewhere.

B. F. PEARCE.

Hay St., Fayetteville, Sept. 1, 1856. 139-tf

GROCERIES.

I am now receiving my stock of **Family Groceries,** consisting as follows:

75 Bags Coffee, assorted,
50 Bbls Sugar,
50 " Mackerel No. 3,
25 " " " 2,
25 " " " 1,
10 " Herring,
5 " Stewart's Syrup,
35 Boxes Cheese,
15 " Sperm Candles,
15 " Adamantine Candles,
West India Preserves, assorted,
Spices, Candles, and Teas,
Soap, Putty, and White Lead.

Will keep constantly on hand Bacon, Lard, Butter, &c., &c.

The above named articles, and all others usually kept in a Grocery Store, will be kept constantly on hand, and sold cheap for cash or on time to prompt paying customers. E. F. MOORE.

Store formerly occupied by Hall & Sackett.

Sept. 12, 1856. 140-tf

Blankets, Kerseys, Kentucky Jeans,

Keystone Stripes, and a large lot of Shoes,

For sale by E. F. MOORE.

50 KEGS NAILS.
15 Doz. AXES, Assorted,
and some **Superior HAND-SAWS.**

For sale by E. F. MOORE.

W. Overby,

Saddle and Harness Maker.

Respectfully informs the public and all the old customers of Houston & Overby, that he still continues to carry on the Saddle and Harness making and all its various branches at the old stand of Houston & Overby, where he will be happy to furnish them with any article they may need in his line of business.

Strict attention paid to repairing.

Aug. 18, 1856. 137-tf.

O. HOUSTON

Would return his thanks to the public for the liberal patronage he has received, and hopes, by punctuality in business, for a continuation of the same.

He has commenced business on his own responsibility, on the South side of Person street, two doors below the Cape Fear Bank and three doors above his old stand, where he would be glad to see all his old friends. He expects to keep on hand a good assortment of Saddles, Bridles, Whips, and every thing in his line of business.

N. B. He will attend to repairing of Saddles, Harness, &c., and his charges shall be moderate.

September 4, 1856. 139-6m

Carolinian copy.

SUPPORT YOUR OWN PAPERS.

A New Southern Literary Journal.

THE EXAMINER,

Published at Columbia, S. C.

THIS Journal has entered upon its second volume, and with its next issue will commence the publication of an

ORIGINAL PRIZE TALE,

of great literary merit and thrilling interest. This will be followed by

A SERIES OF ORIGINAL STORIES,

written expressly for the columns of The Examiner. These Stories are all from the pens of SOUTHERN WRITERS, and will initiate a new era in Southern periodical literature. We think from arrangements now in progress, that in all future issues of the Examiner, its columns will be furnished with ORIGINAL TALES and NOUVELETTES, equal to any published in literary journals, either North or South.

We have printed a large edition, and will be enabled to supply new subscribers from the commencement of these stories, if orders are sent in early.

The Examiner is printed on a large double sheet of eight pages, containing FORTY COLUMNS of reading matter, with very few advertisements.

As a LITERARY JOURNAL, it has already taken a high stand, and with proper encouragement will soon rank among the best in the country.

As a POLITICAL JOURNAL, it will ever advocate the Rights, Interests, and Institutions of the South.—Besides these features, it will weekly furnish a full summary of news. It will be the aim of the Editor to make The Examiner just such a paper as will cause it to be a welcome visitor in every Southern family.

The terms of the Examiner, are

THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM,

payable in all cases in advance. With FIVE THOUSAND subscribers at this price, we will insure to the Southern reading public

THE BEST PAPER OF ITS CLASS

ever issued at the South. Forward your subscriptions for the new volume.

Clubs of ten will be furnished with the paper for twenty-five dollars. Address

W. B. JOHNSTON.

Columbia, July 31, 1856.

AGENCY OF NORTH CAROLINA Mutual Insurance Company.

The subscriber having been appointed Agent for the above Company will be pleased to take Risks in this place and vicinity on the most reasonable terms.

AUG. W. STEEL.

July 5, 1856. 131-y

WILMINGTON, CHARLOTTE, & RUTHERFORD RAIL ROAD COMPANY.

The Annual meeting of the Stockholders of this Company, will be held in the Town of Wilmington, on Wednesday the 22nd day of October next.

H. W. GUION, Presdt.

Sept. 17, 1856. 142-4t

POETRY.

"IN MEDIO TUTISSIMUS,"
Or
THE SAFE DRIVER.

When Phæton borrow'd the rein
Of Phœbus, the God of the Sun,
He was caution'd to keep on the plain,
And not from the zodiac run.

He was warned not to go *North* too far,
Nor *Southward* too widely to stray;
But to watch for each fair-beaming star
That bounded the well beaten way.

Had Apollo the ribbons still kept,
Or trusted a jarvey more skill'd,
The sisters might never have wept
For the fate of poor Phæton spill'd.

But, alas! the weak, ignorant lad
Heeded not the advice of his sire,
But drove his *Mustangs* Jehu-mad,
And soon set the world all on fire.

MORAL.

Let the prudent and wise then beware
Who for us shall guide the State-car,
Lest the Union to fragments he tear,
Or dash from its flag a bright star.

The man who has once fill'd the chair
With wisdom and honor and skill,
Who knows when to bear and forbear,
Is the one who can best fill it still.

He knows best how to manage the team,
When to pull up the steeds, when to goad,
How to drive them, to *neither extreme*,
On the broad Constitutional road.

Then hail to the man of the day!
With the reins in his hand, as before,
He'll bowl us along the safe way,
And the seat, as he fill'd, once fill-more.

From the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser of Sept. 17.

RESTORATION OF THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE.

As the duties of a statesman are not precisely those of a debating club, it always tries the patience of practical men to see effort wasted in discussions from which nothing can possibly result. In great and critical conjunctures especially a statesman will study to discover the measures best adapted to meet existing exigencies, and he will not lend himself to the promotion of any scheme, whatever its intrinsic excellence may be, for a single moment after he is satisfied he has no chance of success.—Like a wise physician, he will keep himself accurately informed of the progress of the disease and the condition of the patient, and will not insist that a medicine shall be administered today because it would have prevented the malady had it been taken ten days ago. It is his business to deal with the disease in its present stage, and if the patient refuse to take the medicine which is best in itself, he must not, therefore, suffer him to die while he is wasting time in a vain effort to conquer his obstinacy. If he refuses the best medicine, he must give him the best he can get him to take.

We notice that several conservative journals in the South have lately advocated the restoration of the Missouri compromise as the most suitable remedy for the present unhappy and distracted condition of the country. Could the South see the error which was committed in its repeal, and voluntarily come forward for its restoration, it would at once end all controversy; but this we conceive to be morally impossible. Therefore we cannot forbear to remark that we consider the discussion of this question at this time as unwise and ill-timed. The subject which now absorbs public attention is the approaching Presidential election, and we cannot see that the restoration of the Missouri compromise is a question which the National Executive will ever in his official capacity be called to consider. The Missouri compromise line was established by an act of Congress; it was repealed by an act of Congress; and, if it is ever restored, it requires an act of Congress to reinstate it. If the question of its restoration is of any importance in the Presidential election, it must be because there is a likelihood, or at least a possibility that Congress will pass an act for that purpose, which will be submitted to the President for his approval. If it is certain beforehand that no such act will ever come before the President, the whole question is frivolous and idle, or at least has no pertinence to the Presidential election.

We suppose it will not be controverted that if Congress ever passes an act reinstating the compromise, it will be prior to the passage of an act admitting Kansas into the Union as a State. Subsequent to that event its restoration would amount to nothing; for the two-fold reason that Congress has no constitutional power to control the domestic institutions of a State, and that, even if it possessed the power, its exercise would be either idle or impossible—idle if Kansas should come in as a free State, impossible if she should come in as a slave State; for the same majority which admitted her as such would prevent the restoration. The whole question, then, so far as it has any bearing on the Presidential election, reduces itself to this: Whether there is any possibility that such an act can be passed before Kansas is ripe for admission as a State? If the negative can be demonstrated, then all agitation of the subject is futile and unwise.

The present Congress, which has rejected a bill proposing the restoration of the Missouri compromise line, will go out of power on the 4th of March next; its successor on the 4th of March, 1857; and the successor of that Congress will commence its first session three years from the first of next December. Long before that time Kansas will either be in the Union or knocking at the doors of Congress for admission. If, then, an act for the restoration of the Missouri compromise is not passed by the present or the next succeeding Congress, it is certain that it will never be passed at all. The present Congress will pass no such act, for the South has a large Democratic majority; the next Congress will not pass, for the reason that the Democrats will still have the ascendency in the Senate. Even the most sanguine of the Republican journals admit this, and no man in that party is extravagant enough to claim that in the next Congress the Senate will be favorable to their views. The New York Evening Post made an estimate day before yesterday, in which, after claiming the election in several States which the Republicans are likely to lose, it only reckoned on twenty-five of the sixty-two members of the Senate for Fremont. Burlingame, in his speech in Boston two or three days since, made threat that with a Republican President and a Republican House of Representatives they would grind the pro-slavery Senate of the next Congress "as between the upper and the nether mill-stone," thus clearly admitting that they had no hopes of the Senate.

We may consider it demonstrated, therefore, that an act for restoring the Missouri compromise will never come before the President for his consideration. As connected with the Presidential election, the question is perfectly idle a mere abstraction, unworthy the consideration of a practical statesman. It is unwise to discuss it as an element of the Presidential canvass; *it would be equally unwise ever to agitate it again in Congress. The Missouri compromise is like water spilled upon the sand, it can never be gathered up. Its repeal was a great blunder, but it is now too late to correct it.* The attempt to restore it at the late session of Congress is defensible on the ground that it was well to offer to the Senate an opportunity to reconsider its action. *But the Compromise is dead, and it would be as rational to expect the reanimation of any other corpse as of this.* Nothing remains but to pronounce it eulogy and bury it out of sight.

For more than thirty years the whole country acquiesced in it, and it had acquired a sacredness in public estimation which it was unwise to disturb. It had settled a dangerous controversy, which it was folly, nay, it was madness to re-open. Its repeal, as Mr. Fillmore justly remarked in one of his speeches, was the Pandora's box from which has issued all our present evils. As Mr. Fillmore was opposed at the time to its disturbance, he has not changed his opinion that its repeal was an act of folly. But we are quite sure we do not misrepresent his sentiments when we say that *he does not think it would be wise to attempt its restoration, and that he desires no agitation having this object, either in Congress or out of it.* He is too sagacious not to perceive that the question has become obsolete, and too wise to pour water around the root of a tree which was girdled two years ago in the hope of again seeing it covered with foliage.

Nothing now remains for the Territories but to see that by wise legislation, properly enforced, the people are protected in the enjoyment of peace, and ultimately in the right of determining the character of their institutions, without intimidation by mobs, and without interference from the States. The sooner this doctrine is acquiesced in the sooner will that quiet be restored to the country of which it is so greatly in need.

The following endorsement is made on this article:

"*My sentiments.* M. F."

The above was forwarded to J. W. M. Berrien, Esq., by Mr. Fillmore. It embraces his views in relation to the restoration of the Missouri Compromise.

Mr. Fillmore's letter to Mr. Berrien appeared in our issue of last week.

MANUFACTURING FOREIGN VOTES.

It is stated that among other means to which our Democratic opponents are resorting in Pennsylvania, in order to carry the State for "Ten Cent Jimmy," is that of making voters out of the foreign material at an immense ratio. If these were persons who, by due declaration and proper length of residence, were entitled to become citizens, no one would have any right to object to it; but when we are told that one court in the city of Philadelphia has already made within a few weeks 1800 *citizens*, and is still engaged in manufacturing them at the same ratio, our readers can judge for themselves how many of these are justly entitled to naturalization papers. We object to all this kind of thing, as of pernicious influence, highly detrimental to the rights and liberties of free American-born citizens, no matter by what party it is done; and whilst such a practice continues, no one should be surprised if the belief extends, that "Americans should rule America."

We also see it stated in our Northern exchanges, that near ten thousand foreigners have been recently "*naturalized*" in the city of New York with a special view to the Presidential election next Tuesday week. Thousands of them, it is said, have not been in the United States a year and cannot pronounce our language intelligibly. Yet these are the persons who are endowed with the "balance of power" and give the *casting vote*, whether for weal or woe, in deciding the political destinies of our country.—*Greensboro Patriot.*

DISTRESS.—Horace Smith says that distress, even when positive or superlative, is still only comparative. As an illustration of this idea, he relates the following conversation: "Such is the pressure of the times in our town," said a Birmingham manufacturer to his agent in London "that we have good workmen who will get up the inside of a watch for eighteen shillings." "Pooh! that is nothing compared to London," replied his friend, "we have boys here who will get up the inside of a chimney for a sixpence."

☞ Pay the printer if you would be happy.

The following article we copy from the New Orleans Picayune. Our readers recollect that the Picayune has occupied until very recently a neutral position upon the Presidential campaign.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

The Presidential contest, the issues involved in it, and the probable result, are the subjects now occupying the public mind, from the St. John to the Rio Grande, from the Atlantic coast to that of the far off Pacific.

The present contest for the Presidency is, beyond doubt, the most momentous since the formation of the Union. It is but eighty years since the Declaration of Independency, and not seventy since the adoption of the constitution, and at this day the people of this prosperous Republic are plunged into a contest, in which the integrity of the constitution, and the existence of the Union are at stake.

It is not our purpose, in this place, to enter into a statement of the causes that have operated to bring about this lamentable state of affairs. The danger is present, and our immediate duty is to aid in averting or overcoming it.

At no former period in the brief but glorious career of the United States, has the stability of our institutions been so alarmingly threatened as at present, and unless the devoted spirit of all true patriots be throughly aroused, and the conservative masses of the people be promptly organized and rallied to the support and for the salvation of the constitution and the Union, we are on the eve of a period in our history from which date the rapid decline of this youthful, prosperous, gigantic and powerful member of the family of nations. The rise of our country is without parallel in the long record of ages. Its fall would be the direst calamity that ever was inflicted upon the human race.

There were times that tried men's souls, when the Fathers of the Republic struggled to bring it into existence. The present contest for the Presidency will either prove the existence of that feeling of veneration for the founders of our system of Government, of that sense of their invaluable labors, of that love for the Union, of that devoted patriotism, by which alone the blessings we enjoy can be preserved; or, on the other hand, the non existence of those feelings and virtues amongst the great mass of the people, and therefore the certainty that the days of the great Republic of the West are numbered. We have too much confidence in the intelligence, the virtue, the conservatism, and the patriotism of the great majority of the American people, to entertain any fears as to the result. They will not prove unworthy of the blessings they enjoy.

In the ordinary contests between political parties for ascendency in the Government we have never taken an active part. The political arena has no charms for us. We are usually content to confine our cares to the notice of passing events, and to the discussion of public questions without reference to their connection with party, but these are not ordinary times, and in the presence of the danger that now threatens the integrity of the constitution and the Union, neutrality becomes neither the private citizen nor the public journalist.

The impending contest for the possession of the executive chair of the Republic involves dearer and far more important interests than were involved in the struggles of Whigs and Democrats for ascendency in the Government. Their points of difference were confined to the principles on which the Government might be administered with most benefit and advantage to the common weal. Now the case is different.

For the first time in the history of our country a persistent effort is made to precipitate a sectional contest for the Presidency. A powerful party is organized throughout the Northern States on a basis of avowed and unrelenting hostility to the domestic institutions and the equal constitutional rights of the Southern States, and it has nominated a candidate for the Presidency, whose election it seeks to secure by the united vote of the Northern States.

The great and good Washington, in his farewell address, warned us of "the danger of parties in the State, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discrimination." Sixty years had not elapsed since the Father of his Country gave that invaluable lesson to us, when, in total disregard of the advice of him whom they pretend to hold in reverence, a powerful party was organized on the very grounds he deprecated as one of the greatest evils that could befall us.

In opposition to this party the Democrats have nominated a candidate whose only hope of success is in his receiving the united vote of the Southern States, together with the votes of one or two at the North.

Thus we have the alarming spectacle of a sectional contest before us. This is an evil which must be avoided if possible.—The success of either of these parties, it seems to us, would produce none but evil results. The success of either would be the triumph of one section of the Union over another section. In the nature of things the suicidal agitation now prevailing, would be heightened and aggravated whichever party gained the ascendency.

Such being the case, we should be wanting in duty to our country, we should fail to meet the requirements and responsibilities which attach to us as an organ of public opinion, as a "sentinel on the watch-tower of liberty," if we remained passive and maintained the position of an unconcerned spectator of a contest in which are involved such momentous results to our country, and to the whole civilized world.

It is said that Barnum offers ten cents reward, to any one who will produce that knapsack Buchanan was willing to buckle on in defence of the South.