

PRESIDENTIAL.

The selection of candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency, by the two great political parties of the country, forms the principal theme of discussion and the general cause of excitement, throughout the Union.

FILMORE, WEBSTER and SCOTT are the prominent candidates on the Whig side. One of them will, judging from the signs of the times, receive the nomination of the Whig National Convention—although it is by no means impossible, in case the friends of each should be unable to come to an agreement in regard to any one of them, that the Convention may fall back upon Kentucky's whole-souled, patriotic and glorious statesman—JOHN J. CRITTENDEN—as a compromise candidate.

What a miserably suicidal policy, it is, then, for us to fold our arms, decline doing anything to enforce our rights, and thus, virtually, surrender them.

THE FRENCH SPOILATION BILL.

In the Senate, the bill to provide for the ascertainment and satisfaction of claims of American citizens, for spoiliations committed by the French prior to the 31st of July, 1801, has been passed by a vote of 2 to 1—26 to 13—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Badger, Reuben, Bonwell, Bradbury, Clarke, Cooper, Davis, Dawson, Downs, Fish, Geyer, Hale, Ham in, James, Mangum, Miller, Pea-ce, Sebastian, Seward, Shields, Smith, Spruance, Sumner, Underwood, Upham and Wade—26.

Nays—Messrs. Adams, Atchison, Brodhead, Cass, Dodge, of Wisconsin, Dodge, of Iowa, Douglas, Leitch, Gwin, Hunter, King, Norris, and Walker—13.

Messrs. South and Pratt and Weller, who were absent, would have voted for the bill had they been present; but they had paired off with Messrs. Rusk, Jones of Iowa, and Broke, who were against the bill, but did not vote.

The bill now goes to the House of Representatives, where it is said it will certainly pass, if it is only taken up in time.

The justice of these claims in the hands of the original holders, is not denied by any one—but opposition to the bill is made because, in many instances, it is alleged the claims have passed from the original sufferers to others, who purchased them at a great depreciation. Whose fault is it that the claims had passed from the hands of the original sufferers? Congress' fault. They neglected to pass the bills to pay them and thus allowed the ruin and the distress which the spoliation of the French had brought upon citizens of the United States, to have their full sway—no effect of which was to obligate any price they could get—the sacrifice being necessary to raise means for their own support.

Others do because the delay of Congress in passing the bill, made them doubtful of its disposition to be just, and they therefore parted with their claims to those who were willing to run that risk.

The approval of the President is not doubtful—or no one would dare to doubt that Millard Fillmore would do what is right. Let the House pass the bill, without delay, and then will this Congress signalize its session by an act of long delayed justice.

Baltimore Patriot.

THREE MILLIONAIRES.

A New Orleans paper of standing has some curious commentaries on the lives of several rich men, recently deceased in that city.—Of John McDonough it thus speaks:

Here is a sketch of another: "Joseph Fowler was a cold, selfish, cynical, vulgar man, without a scintilla of soul, who lived for himself alone, thinking neither of his suffering kindred in this world, nor of God and eternity. He was the slave of the almighty dollar all his life, and died, at last, without having the courage to make a will, or the grace to make, by public charities, some reparation for the selfishness of his life.

The third is referred to as follows:

"Cornelius Paulding was a better man than either of these. He was frigid, penurious and exacting; but he sometimes gave, gave freely. For many years he had been a member of the Baptist Church; and, at various periods, after he removed to New Orleans he provided a place of worship for his brethren, and tendered his house as a residence for the minister. Several Clergymen came to reside with him, but, notwithstanding their habits of self-denial, he starved them all out. Nor did the church thrive any better under his auspices. The church government of the Baptists is a pure democracy. All the power resides in the members, and even the old prejudices that exclude women from participation in government, are not recognized. All are equal, and the minister in that church, out of the pulpit, has no more power than one of his flock. This form of government was not adapted to the disposition of Mr. Paulding. He was arbitrary and dictatorial, and the result was, that the Baptists in this city, though few in number, and poor, preferred to worship in obscure places, rather than to occupy the splendid church which he sometimes proposed to erect for them. Mr. Paulding had lived long enough to learn a useful lesson from the death of John McDonough. He read the commentaries of the press upon his unnatural, selfish and litigious will. He has wisely bequeathed the bulk of his estate to his impoverished relations; has made generous donations to the Orphan Asylum and public schools—and we rejoice to learn appropriated \$30,000 for the Baptists of this city."

UNWHOLESOME CONTAGION.

The following extract from a paper in the N. Y. Tribune sets forth in pretty strong colors the influence of Congressional extravagance and prodigality on the man who leaves his home with the idea that eight dollars a day is his wage.—"The Congress-man has bewailed himself hoarse on the stump in behalf of 'retrenchment and reform,' but he reaches Washington and sees millions going this way, and other millions that, at the dash of the pen, and his right dollars per day which he looks on as his wages, he wastes in the full view of these dazzling railroads, into a pitance which he would be ashamed to keep his dog on. So he begins by overcharging his mileage by some magnificent circumstances; next votes himself a cart load of books, which he does not read; then he orders a pocket watch, proceeds and Uncle Sam the loss; and now he is ready for jobbing in contracts, in claims, and dabbles in all manner of miscellaneous corruption, whereby the expenditures are swelled, and the treasury depleted. So up go the appropriations for the new bill, but nobody is to blame. Party hacks try to make party capital out of it, and put a pious unseemly epithet to kille, denigrate, and fall to realizing. Aop's table of the fox and the flies; so nothing of this 'withering' exposure and that tremendous castigation, but infinite contentment. You see, empty noise; at all events no retrenchment, but rather increased extravagance, waste and peculation."

A BEARLESS BAR.

Under the Prince President the customs of the French people are partialy regula ed. The Paris correspondent of the Missouri Republican writes: "You will have seen that the lawyers have all been ordered to cut off their beards and moustaches. This was a terrible abuse of grievous to most of the gentlemen of the bar, particularly some of the younger ones. It was only a few days before the decree came out, that a lady from the law, and telling me how happy her son, a young law student of twenty-three, was, that his beard was beginning to grow, after he had almost despaired of having this ornament to his face, and had been obliged to cut away the beard because he has been chiding so tenderly. I heard of another young lawyer who adopted his little curling moustaches, and who could not make up his mind to part with it forever. Accordingly, the morning after the new law had been promulgated to the bar, the young man appeared in court, his lip still adorned with it.

The judge frowned, looked at him sternly, and then said, 'Sir, you are not aware of the new law respecting beards?' 'Yes, sir.' 'Why then have you not shaved your upper lip?' 'I have shaved my beard, but I have not shaved my upper lip, sir, what is that to you, or your law?' 'I have shaved my beard, and I have shaved my upper lip, sir, what is that to you, or your law?' 'I have shaved my beard, and I have shaved my upper lip, sir, what is that to you, or your law?' 'I have shaved my beard, and I have shaved my upper lip, sir, what is that to you, or your law?'

The Southern Press gives fair warning to 'all concerned,' that an ass's claims for a share of the younger lawyer's law, was made to understand that hair of every description was from this time forward, on the faces of the members of the legal profession, an abomination in the eyes of the law.

And now it is seriously argued against these claims that they have thus, in many instances, passed to the hands of those who never despaired of Congress vindicating the honor of the government by paying them.—The Senate has done its part, by passing the bill. The House, we trust, will be careful to place itself in as honorable a position.—

MR. MANGUM'S SPEECH.

SENATE—APRIL 15 1852.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL EXPLANATIONS.

Mr. MANGUM. Mr. President, I have no speech to make in the ordinary acceptance of that term. I desire to make a few remarks, touching, as briefly as I may, upon a few points which in fact are mainly in reference to my own personal position, which, I am aware, is of little consequence to any body but myself—a topic on which most men are supposed to speak fluently, and but few wisely. I shall be as brief as I can.

It is known to the Senate that, during the past winter, my health has been, I may say, bad, but at best, variable; and I have not participated at all in the business of the Senate, except occasionally and very slightly.—I still less have I participated in any arrangements or intrigues touching presidential questions, or anything of that kind. Yet I find, humble as an individual as I am, that I am made the subject of newspaper speculations, presented variously and conflictingly at different points. However small my be the paper which I hold, I am unwilling that every word should play upon it, and extinguish it. I desire to be understood correctly.

It has been my habit, throughout life, on all occasions of this character, never to be doubted; and I desire, if I shall succeed in explaining myself perfectly, that I may here be doubted on these subjects. In regard to the next presidency, I shall very probably stand prepared to support the nominee of the Whig Convention. I profess to be a party man, and shall act upon that principle; I shall yield, as I was compelled to do four years ago, against my own judgment, if necessary, against all my own inclinations, to support, as I did then, most strenuously, the nominee of the Whig Convention.

But while I shall probably do this, I have my preference. I had the same four years ago; and that preference implies no dereliction of principle upon my part, nor any departure from or modification whatever of the principles that I have steadily maintained for now nearly thirty years, in both branches of the national legislature. I know, if I go in a particular direction, that we have conservatives, both North and South, of what is esteemed the regular institution of the South, who imagine that a man is unfaithful to them, if untrue to them, if he does not happen to tread in the path indicated by them. I am old enough, if not wise enough, to set upon the suggestions of my own understanding; and, wise or unwise, I shall probably do so without fear, favor, or affection, reward or hope, or without being intimidated by the menaces or power—unrestrained by the trammels of flattery.

Upon this interesting question, I, unhappily, an informed and believe that I differ, as regards my first choice, from a portion of the constituency whom I have the honor to represent. It has not been an uncommon thing for me, in the course of my public service, to differ profoundly upon several occasions, from my constituents. They have been to be sure in kind, and that is the ground of many griefs and regrets when my sense of public duty impelled me to such difference. Perhaps the most odious actions of my public life have been those in regard to which these differences have arisen, and have in the long run, given me whatever little strength I may have had at home. I shall continue to pursue the course that my judgment shall indicate as the best for their interests, safety, happiness, and prosperity, during the short time that the relations now subsisting between myself and my constituents shall continue.

My purpose is to retire from public life.—I am a candidate for nothing; nor do I expect to be ever again a candidate for anything. During nearly thirty years of service in both branches of the national legislature, I have never sought employment under any executive, under any power.—I should always feel a sort of humiliation in giving up the kind confidence of a whole State to hold an office, however exalted and illustrious, by the feeble tenure of the will of one man. I have never sought it for myself or for mine.—I shall never do so. I do not say that I have never felt a sense of humiliation in appealing to my constituents, the people of my own State, and, if successful, that success has invariably produced upon me the impression of a use of my unworthiness or inability to render the service compatible with the degree of confidence which has been reposed in me.

I should not feel now any sort of humiliation to appeal to them for any place of honor, trust, or profit, if they had it in their bosom, though I am no candidate, and, in all probability, I never shall be again, even for the favor of a people who are nearer and dearer to my own heart than any others; and I trust the whole American family are near to me.

I understand, from evidences which I cannot question, that a majority of the people of North Carolina prefer the first President for the succession, as their first choice. I stand where I stood four years ago. This diversity of opinion between my constituents and myself can lead, I trust, to no results that may be detrimental to the public interests. I know perfectly well that the avowal of this preference on my part will grate harshly on the ears of the friends of the present Executive, both here and elsewhere. But according to the custom of my whole life, I feel it to be my duty to speak truly my honest and sincere convictions. I will speak freely and unreservedly to the public interests, if I believe that the public interests require it.

Sir, I will further say that I believe that the people of North Carolina are so averse to all the agitators, that have existed here upon a particular subject, and to all the agitators of a local and sectional character of every kind whatsoever, that they would very reluctantly bestow their support upon any one who either directly or indirectly encourages such agitation. In that respect we do not differ at all; for I hold that no enlightened patriot can ever desire to see this country pass again through such terrible, such alarming scenes as we all witnessed during 1849 and 1850. I pray God that such may never happen again in this country.

I know very well that there are certain gentlemen who make light of it; who suppose, or affected to suppose, that no evil was likely to result from that agitation; who, considered that the Union was safe; or who, to conceal their unpatriotic and traitorous devices, affected to consider it safe. Yes, sir, if they had been at sea, and in a storm, perhaps they might have made light of it when they regained terra firma; but they were not less afflicted, perhaps, during the time when the elements were being and struggling, and waving above, beneath, and around them.—The wisest men in this country did think there was great and imminent

peril. I thought so then—I think so yet—I hope we have escaped it. But with all the finalities there is not yet a finally to the disposition to agitate. I disapprove the whole of it. I think that in this burning focus of faction at the city of Washington, quite as much is done to produce this agitation as is produced either by the abolitionists of the North or the disunionists of another portion of the Union. I have no sympathy with either of them. I have never been heard to speak in any factious spirit upon this delicate question within my recollection. It is not my purpose to do it now.

Instead of preferring the present President of the United States as my first choice, I prefer Winfield Scott, and if he shall be the nominee, I have little fear of the result. I know how difficult it is for a man powerless, without patronage, and without official influence to get a nomination against the power of an administration which can wheel into the ranks a hundred thousand office holders, and dependants perhaps to the number of half a million. I know that if they unscrupulously use this power, it will be next to impossible to obtain a nomination against them.—The present President is entitled to the declaration from me that I believe he would secure the use of such means. But what some of his friends might do I should not undertake to vouch for. Their activity—premature and somewhat absurd as I thought—seems to furnish a full guarantee that they will not be in the future sluggish, and disloyal to their practices in the past.

I have said that North Carolina will not be inclined to support any man who is in favor of reopening agitation upon these delicate subjects; and on that point I here express the conviction, and I might almost say my knowledge, that General Scott can show as clear a bill of political health on these questions as either the president, Mr. Webster, or Mr. Clay. I say what I think I knew during the presidency of these questions.—After the successful adjustment of them, good and patriotic and pacific men met the 'All hail!' of the entire country; but before those measures passed, when men stood upon a plank, trembled over a precipice—that was the time to try the sincerity, the candor and the truthfulness of men's professions and men's conduct. During that period General Scott was quailing before a danger to produce an adjustment of those angry difficulties, and a pacific union upon which honorable men—North, South, East, and West—could stand in reference to the questions that were then agitating the country so menacingly and appallingly. I do not pretend to say that he approved of everything that was done in the various acts of compromise, and I do not say that he approved of everything that I would venture to say, as a mere matter of opinion, that there was not a member in either branch of the Legislature that approved of everything in every one of those bills. I certainly did not. But I acted upon this principle: I went for an adjustment upon which an honorable man could stand at both ends of the Union. I did not desire to obtain an advantage, or a triumph over my opponents in that sectional controversy. I think there is no enlightened patriot who would not scorn to acquire a victory or a triumph over his friends and his brethren. In that respect, I believe from my intercourse with General Scott, that he more nearly coincided with my personal feelings than any other man with whom I conversed. Sir, as in all his feelings in all his professions, in all his declarations, in all his resolutions, he desired neither triumph of the North over the South, nor of the South over the North. He desired an adjustment of any sort upon which men might stand with honor at both extremes of the Union, and preserve that heritage without which liberty, I think, would be extinguished, and perhaps forever. Imagine this Union separated exactly in twain; once set that example, and it would crumble down into the smallest and most contemptible, and factious, and warring fragments, and we would become a by word and a scorn to all the enlightened portions of mankind who feel any interest in human liberty and in the progress of civilization.

I believe, therefore, that in doing what I do, in indicating the preference which I have, I am no degree depart from the principles I have always advocated, and I am no degree depart from the principles I have always advocated, and I am no degree depart from the principles I have always advocated.

I have no other expectations to be able to use him as an instrument. Of all the men upon the earth, I should select him among the first who would never be made an unworthy instrument in the hands of any faction, whether South or North. That is my opinion. I understand to express the belief that he is the only Whig in the Union who would not be made an unworthy instrument, and I would say to my honorable and my worthy friend from Michigan, (Mr. Cass,) that I should never regret to see any honor conferred upon him by the American people. Though this is praise coming from a quarter that may rather damage than benefit him, I must say that I never shall regret to see him elected to the Presidency. I think that Senator exhibited in the Committee of Thirteen, from the day of its first meeting until the report was finally made. I say again—not as a Whig, but as an American citizen—that I should never regret to see any honor conferred upon him by the American people. Though this is praise coming from a quarter that may rather damage than benefit him, I must say that I never shall regret to see him elected to the Presidency. I think that Senator exhibited in the Committee of Thirteen, from the day of its first meeting until the report was finally made. I say again—not as a Whig, but as an American citizen—that I should never regret to see any honor conferred upon him by the American people.

I have a strong feeling of *quid pro quo* for my old friend, the editor of the Union; for I have been distressed at his sorrow that the Whigs did not seem to pay a sufficient degree of respect to the gentleman who was named for a high office. I said to him with some indignation; for I have none but the kindest personal feelings for him, and he greatest respect for his sagacity—a quality which I think he possesses in a very high degree. It is the old doctrine of New York Democracy, first avowed, I believe, by Governor Van Buren, that the Whigs did not seem to pay a sufficient degree of respect to the gentleman who was named for a high office. I said to him with some indignation; for I have none but the kindest personal feelings for him, and he greatest respect for his sagacity—a quality which I think he possesses in a very high degree.

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had strong apprehensions, as one would have thought over for a parent or a child that hung by a thread over a bottoming bill. The bravest of men were not at all prepared to stake; and were sleepless at night; ridiculous as it is represented to be by some gentlemen who recklessly went forward, lighting their little tapers, and making their way through the world, trying to get a little human popularity which would not last longer than their tapers would burn. Recklessly as they put their necks into the noose, and agreed upon to every thing of political philosophy, every lover of human liberty and human freedom must have felt that on the decision of the questions then pending depended the hopes of mankind; and that if these reckless counsels should prevail, this nation—the hopes of mankind—would have been buried for a time, if not forever. I have never to be endowed with that sort of recklessness; and I hope that the majority of the American people will never be endowed with it. I hope that, with a fraternal, kindly, and affectionate sense, we will water our tapers, watch their progress, and endeavor to perpetuate their safety.

In the preference I have indicated for the next president, I feel that our interests will be as secure in those hands as in any hands that could be selected in the Union. I feel that in the purity of the morality, the known honor, the honest and straightforward principles of the Whigs, would be as safe as they would be anywhere. In the providence of God, it is not the highest ability and most practical statesmanship that are required to give us a good government. It would be most unfortunate for the world, and especially for this American world, if it were so. Right intentions, a strong and firm character, a high sense of duty, and high sense, a firm heart, and right intentions and directness of purpose, as quickly as our cousins—the wily Mexicans—yielded to a greater than Cortez, in his triumphant, glorious, and almost miraculous march from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico, the Whigs will yield to the Whigs.

There is another circumstance which leads me to my preference in favor of the gentleman whom I prefer four years ago. I think it was a great national misfortune that he was not selected at that time. If he had been President, we should have never had the scenes which occurred here during the winter and spring of 1851; we should not have had the Ruff to counterpoint with all its disasters. But this other reason of mine is, the ground of availability. It has been my steady unwavering conviction, for more than a year and a half, that Winfield Scott is the only Whig in the Union who can reach the Presidency.

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directed as we could, and fix them together. In doing so, we lost sight of the old fugitive slave bill, reported by the Committee of the Whigs, and which, if passed, would have been a great benefit to the country. I have seen on the list of names which I regard as most respectable of any that has appeared in modern years, and that is a *laudationibus*. It is one of the great faults of our country, that we have no reflective man who has lived his life for the good of his country. I have seen on the list of names which I regard as most respectable of any that has appeared in modern years, and that is a *laudationibus*. It is one of the great faults of our country, that we have no reflective man who has lived his life for the good of his country.

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a great deal that is worthless and useless, and no vigor, or energy, or power, it is also a land of pearls less moral, or more enlightened, or perhaps less successful, or more happy, or more virtuous, or more hardy than our country. I have seen on the list of names which I regard as most respectable of any that has appeared in modern years, and that is a *laudationibus*. It is one of the great faults of our country, that we have no reflective man who has lived his life for the good of his country.

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