

CONGRESSIONAL

THE "BROWN" AFFAIR.

We regret that our limits will not permit the publication of the discussion which ensued upon the exposure of the double-dealing, fraud and treachery of Mr. Locofoco Brown, in his dishonorable attempt to obtain the Speakership of the House of Representatives. All honest men seem to be pleased at the frustration of his aims. That the Whigs were glad that the revelation was made before the same was accomplished, may well be supposed. But they threw no potshots, annoyed the Opposition with no jibes, nor talked the humor of the sundry speakers who addressed the House, General Burt, thanks his God that the disclosure was made before it was too late to do him any harm.

On the morning of the day upon which the disclosure occurred, we find in the Union the administrative suggestion: "It depends upon Messrs. Coburn and Mr. Brown on Monday, but do not decide whether the House of Representatives shall have a Democratic Speaker or not, to-day."

Mr. Cobb called attention to the above paragraph of the Union, and pronounced it incorrect, so far as related to him. After which a vote was had for Speaker, when Brown received 112.

Mr. Stanly then offered a resolution, and in the course of his remarks, partly let "the cat out of the wallet," by saying that the momentous question which had agitated the North and the South had not come to an end yet, whatever gentlemen may choose to think or say to the contrary.

Mr. Ashmun, I sincerely trust to the gentleman, that there is a rumor that there are written engagements or assurances between them.

[Several gentlemen on the Democratic side cried out, "It is false—it is false!" and there was a degree of excitement.]

Mr. Bayly, I beg leave to inform the gentleman that there is for this no foundation in truth.

Mr. Ashmun. I know nothing of it further than rumor.

ers, but I find that I am mistaken. [Laughter.] The correspondence is not, however, of the character intimated. Mr. Brown's reply to a letter, he tells me, was that he declined to commit himself to the gentleman. He said that he would place them on committees where they were entitled to be.

Mr. Brown obtained the floor, and went on in an endeavor to explain his course, in reference to the Speakership.—We give only his account of matters between himself, Wilmot and others. After he had received 33 votes of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. WILMOT,) with whom he had long been acquainted, and the gentleman from New York, (Mr. D. P. KING,) with whom he had served in Congress, and with whom he had generally voted, being on the Democratic side of the House, desired to have a conference with him. When he had the conference, he found that the objection which they had to voting for him was, that he was selected as the favorite of the South. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. VENABLE) said that he would not vote for a Wilnot proviso man for the Speakership, and yet he voted for him, (Mr. BROWN.) The gentleman above named had no personal objection to him.—They desired not to ask him what his vote might be, but that he would organize the Committees for the District of Columbia, on the Judiciary, and on Territories, in such a manner as would give to all a fair expression of opinion. He told them that he would not make pledges as to who he would place upon them. The gentlemen said that they did not desire to be placed upon either of the committees; all they desired was that the committees should be so constituted that all sections should be represented—the North and the South, the Wilnot proviso men, and the anti-Wilnot proviso men. He informed them that he would so constitute the committees as to satisfy them; they asking nothing more than what was a fair and equal representation.

Mr. Wilnot here stated the terms of the letter he had addressed to Mr. Brown.

Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania. I wish to know from my colleague whether, from his conversation, he had formed a belief that the committees would be formed of a majority of those in favor of Free-Soil?

Mr. Wilnot. I had reason to believe that a majority of the committees would have been placed on them a majority of fair northern men. [Laughter.] Nothing more; and that was an inference I drew from the conversation. I have not the letter.

Mr. Inge. What do you mean by fair northern men?

Mr. Wilnot. Men who would not act in committee from political considerations, or attachment to party, and especially to this Administration, and who would not be asked to smother the expression of the people of the North.

Mr. Inge. I understand, by fair northern men, those committed to the Wilnot proviso.

Mr. Wilnot. Not by any means.

quores of the intimation of Mr. STANLY, because it was too unworthy a suspicion to be entertained, that he was exceedingly indebted to the gentleman from North Carolina, and the gentleman from Massachusetts. Had he known of the correspondence, he would not have voted for Mr. Brown.

Mr. Harris, of Tennessee, desired, if he could, to change his vote for Mr. Brown, on the journal, as he had voted under a misapprehension of the facts. That gentleman had pointed to the record with one hand, while he had acted in a contrary direction.

Mr. Burt had but a word more to say. They were assured that the honorable member who had been made so conspicuous on this occasion, was committed against the Wilnot proviso. He had assurances of it yesterday, but not from Mr. BROWN, and he ventured to say that if they had known of that correspondence, there was not a southern man but would have regarded it as an insult to have been asked to vote for him.

Mr. Brown. One word. I have to say that I stand by what I remarked to my southern friends. If a proposition were to prevent the extension of slavery in a territorial bill, I would vote against it.

Mr. Venable said that some few days since he announced to this House that he could not vote for a Free-Soiler or an Abolitionist, and the same or the next day he voted for Mr. Brown. It was but just to himself to place himself clearly and fairly before them. He was led to the conclusion to which he came by a conversation with Mr. Brown.

Mr. Hubbard, of Alabama said that he was the one who addressed Mr. Brown a letter. I only required non-interference—no more. He preferred a man from the North, to offer something on the altar of our common Union. He addressed him a letter, and Mr. Brown pointed to his course, and Mr. Hubbard was a satisfied. He said that no man deserved the Speakership who should tell how the committees would be constituted.

Mr. Stanton, of Tennessee, did not regret that this transaction had come to light. He felt as one who had supported that gentleman, that a weight rested on him. However in this he was not alone and it was for the purpose of throwing it off that he asked the privilege of a word of explanation. It was simply to say, like the gentleman who had addressed the House in reference to the matter, that he had assurances that Mr. Brown was opposed to the Wilnot proviso. Under this belief he had no idea that the gentleman was entering into a coalition with or giving pledges to the free-soilers. He had voted and continued to vote for him, to "the bitter end."

Mr. Mc Mullen remarked that this was the first time he ever attempted to speak a word in an assembly of a deliberative character. Anxious as he was to organize, he had his fears as to the gentleman from Indiana. Last night Madam Rimmer mentioned the intelligence to day communicated to the House. He claimed it to be his privilege to interrogate the gentleman, and know from him his position. I called, said Mr. McMullen, upon the gentleman from Indiana this morning, not feeling quite satisfied in my own mind as to his views upon the great question which agitates the country; and told him that it was rumored, and that he was charged with having given a pledge to the Free-Soil party of the House in relation to the organization of the committees, and that we wanted to know if it were true. He stated to me that no one had called on him upon the subject, and that he had made no pledge to them, or of any kind, except that he had said that, in constituting the Committees on Territories and Committee on the District of Columbia, he would place the gentleman of this House where he thought they should be placed, and that he would be governed in regard to the selection of the committee, by the standing and ability of gentlemen. I told him that I was pleased to hear this, and then asked him if he had given a pledge to the Free Soilers that they should be placed on the committees named; he answered no.

Mr. Thompson, of Mississippi, was greatly rejoiced that these developments had been made; that is, it is far better that they had been made now than after the election of Speaker. He thought that the matter was now pretty well understood by the House, and that it had been debated and canvassed long enough. The House soon after adjourned.

We find the following correspondence between Mr. Wilnot and Mr. Brown in Wednesday's proceedings of the House of Representatives:

DEAR SIR: In the conversation which I had with you this evening, you were free to say that, if elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, you would constitute the Committees on Territories, the Judiciary and the District of Columbia, in a manner that should be satisfactory to myself and the friends with whom I have had the honor to act. I have communicated this to my friends, and in reply to this note, you can give them the same assurance, they will give you a cheerful and cordial support. Respectfully yours, W. J. BROWN.

WASHINGTON CITY, DECEMBER 10, 1849. DEAR SIR: In answer to yours of this date, I will state that, should I be elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, I will constitute the Committees on the District of Columbia, on Territories, and on the Judiciary in such manner as shall be satisfactory to yourself and your friends. I am a representative from a free State, and have always been opposed to the extension of slavery, and believe that the Federal Government should be relieved from the responsibility of slavery where they have the constitutional power to abolish it. I am yours, truly, W. J. BROWN.

Mr. Brown, the defeated Democratic candidate for Speaker, (says the Richmond Whig) was the 2d Assistant P. M. General under Mr. Polk, at a salary of \$2500. He rendered himself quite notorious by entirely neglecting the duties of his office, to travel over the country making speeches for Cass. We can conceive of no one qualification which should induce Southern men to vote for him.

GENERAL NEWS.

RAIL ROAD CONVENTION FOR THE COUNTY OF WAKE. Agreeably to announcement, a numerous and highly respectable convention of the Citizens of Raleigh and County of Wake took place, at the Court House to-day. The meeting was organized by the appointment of the Hon. Jno. H. Bryan, Chairman, and B. B. Smith, Secretary.

The Hon. Calvin Graves and Ex-Governor Morehead, were each called out and likewise made, in turn, many judicious and striking observations, all tending to show the importance of the great work in hand.

On motion the Convention adjourned. JNO. H. BRYAN, Chairman. B. B. SMITH, Secretary.

FORM OF RAILROAD SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Greensboro Convention resolved to raise the \$800,000 fund by that body to be then lacking to make up the one million of individual subscriptions to the North Carolina Rail Road, by one hundred shares of \$800 each, to be subscribed by individuals or companies.

Whereas, the purpose of this agreement is to take and secure the balance of the One Million of said individual stock not already subscribed and to be subscribed by others: We, the undersigned, interchangeably agree with each other and said company, to take each the one-hundredth part of the said balance of the said individual stock:

whole shall be subscribed, do hereby authorize and empower _____ to subscribe for one of said shares.

BOWAN AND GUILFORD.

The Salisbury Watchman thus graphically describes the scene of generous rivalry between the delegations of Rowan and Guilford on the last night of the Greensboro Convention:

On the last night of the Convention when little more remained to be done but the mere business of enrolling the names of subscriptions to the stock, at a moment when all that could be done in that way seemed to have been accomplished, Mr. Jones, of Rowan, with an air and tone of voice that signified "fun," enquired of the Chair, (Dr. Hill), if he could give the necessary information to satisfy certain inquiries which had been anxiously made in various parts of the house, viz: which county had the largest subscription? Some had said it was Rowan and some said Guilford. He said he should like to know with certainty. The President, who instantly fell into the spirit of the thing, looked down at a paper in his hand, and seemed to be counting, at length he announced as the opinion of the Chair, that there was a tie between Rowan and Guilford. Mr. J. said he thought that as Guilford was at home that she ought to take it out of a tie by going one more on the list of "the hundred men." After pausing for a while, and no one appearing on the side of Guilford, Mr. Jones said Rowan would herself decide the matter, whereupon Col. McCorkle, of Rowan, stepped forward and put down his name among the volunteers.

Mr. Jones, in behalf of the Rowan delegation responded, and admitted that they were exhausted. The graceful manner in which the last subscription had been made on the part of Guilford, he said "has disarmed us for the present of all hostility towards Guilford, and inclined us to a truce, but when we go home among our own people, and have our wives and mothers and girls to encourage us, we will try and let you Guilford people hear from us."

HORRID SUICIDE.

On the night of the 11th instant, between 8 and 9 o'clock, there came a certain man, who called himself William Harrison, to the house of John J. Miller, in Rowan county, about four miles West of Gold Hill, and insisted on staying all night.—The writer of this article being there at the time, interrogated him, (tho' much under the influence of spiritous liquors) and learned that he was from Raleigh, and had a family living there: that he came to Gold Hill about three weeks since. He was asked why he left Gold Hill, but could give no satisfactory reply. He was evidently laboring under severe delirium tremens.

Mr. Drows has proved himself something more than a "rowdy" and a "vulgarian." A man may be low in his associations, and uncouth in his manner, without losing altogether the native instincts of an honorable heart. But this blessed mixture of the noble and the ignominious, this detestable compound prepared by Democratic hands for the purpose of proving the "bitterest pill" Taylorian ever swallowed, this man of "middle size"—what has he proved? We scorn to be the name.

ets an) clubbing of this man being examined by the jury, two silver half dollars, and a small piece of tobacco, was all that could be found.

SALISBURY WATCHMAN.

Editor of THE TIMES:

It is usual for us to see more of you in our midst than we have done recently; though we know no reason for your unusually long absence. It cannot be that your presence is not always greeted with great warmth; it is not because we fail to subscribe liberally to your valuable paper; and I know you will not impute that your subscriptions are not met punctually by our citizens.

You will recollect that last week was consumed in the business of our County Court. We had, I am sorry to say, an unusually large State docket, which caused the Court to hold all the week—no cases of a very exciting or striking character, however—and some are of the impression that business was not done with the usual dispatch, in consequence of having a new and comfortable Court House to do business in. By the bye, sir, this Court House, which was taken under contract by Messrs. Britton & Taylor, during the last summer, is just about completed; and I am happy to inform you that the Lawyers and those having business in the world of law, will find the present Brick Court House extremely comfortable and convenient, compared with the former wooden building. The material out of which the building is made is of the most superior nature; the execution of the work is very good; and its general appearance strikes the eye agreeably. The work was executed under the immediate supervision of one of the contractors, Mr. H. A. Taylor, who has, throughout the entire building, set forth the determination to have the work done faithfully, without apparent regard as to the price which he would obtain. Mr. Taylor has established a character among us for honesty, intelligence, industry and perseverance; and I feel justified in saying, on behalf of the good citizens of Franklin, that, in the faithful execution of this public bidding, he has won for himself, and associate, Col. Britton, an amiable reputation, and has established a foundation upon our hearts, that will be as lasting and as indelibly fixed, as is the rock wall upon which this superstructure rears.

With my good wishes for Mr. T's happiness and prosperity in life, I must take my leave of him, hoping, that he will not cease his perseverance until he shall have erected as good Court Houses for every county in our state.

FRANKLIN LODGE, NO. 13, I. O. O. F. WHEREAS, by a wise and intricate decree of Divine Providence, the Members of Franklin Lodge, No. 13, I. O. O. F., have been called upon to deplore the loss which they, with the rest of the community, have sustained in the death of our esteemed and well beloved Brother, DR. WILLIAM C. WRIGHT: And whereas it is but meet and proper that some public demonstration should be made of the kindness and esteem in which he was held by his surviving Brothers: Therefore,

- 1. Resolved, That we deeply deplore the loss which our Lodge has sustained in the death of our beloved Brother; and that we will cherish a recollection of his many virtues and ennobling qualities as a citizen and an Odd Fellow.
2. Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the friends and relatives of our deceased Brother, in the afflictive dispensation which has befallen them.
3. Resolved, That, as a token of our regard and love for the deceased, we will wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of thirty days.
E7 Rah high papers will please copy.

JUDICIAL ELECTIONS.

The Jackson Southern, one of the principal Whig papers in Mississippi, thus speaks of the recent judicial elections in that State:

There is one feature in the recent elections which does infinite credit to the liberality, intelligence and sound sense of the people of Mississippi, and that is, the signal manner in which they have rebuked the attempts of partisan leaders to bring party to bear in deciding upon the relative merits of candidates for judicial honors. In the strongest Whig district in the State, a Judge of the opposite party has been triumphantly re-elected to an office whose duties he has long and faithfully discharged; while in another district the Case incumbent has been re-elected without opposition—a compliment justly due to the impartiality and ability with which he has administered law and justice, without fear, favor or affection. In the northern judicial districts, (strongly Case) Judges Miller and Rodgers, (Taylorism) have been re-elected by large and respectable majorities, although strong appeals were made to the voters opposed to them, by some of the leading editors of the dominant party, to draw the party lines upon the able and accomplished incumbents, and elect to those offices candidates of their own party. Those who doubt the capacity of the people to make proper and judicious selections of judicial functionaries, and who imagine a partisan executive, or a legislative caucus, would do things any better, need only to look to the able judiciary of Mississippi under the elective system, to be effectually cured of their error.

The following members from North Carolina voted for the Swindler Brown, as speaker of the House of Representatives: ASHE, DANIEL, VENABLE.

Mr. Drows has proved himself something more than a "rowdy" and a "vulgarian." A man may be low in his associations, and uncouth in his manner, without losing altogether the native instincts of an honorable heart. But this blessed mixture of the noble and the ignominious, this detestable compound prepared by Democratic hands for the purpose of proving the "bitterest pill" Taylorian ever swallowed, this man of "middle size"—what has he proved? We scorn to be the name. We have no sympathies for the Democracy in their tribulation. Instead of comforting General Taylor, they have inflicted on themselves the bitterest pill and the severest mortifications!