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MR. RAYNER'S  
LETTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE REGISTER:

My letter written to a gentleman in Philadelphia, just previous to my late visit to that place, has been the subject of much comment of late. The tenor of the letter has been most ungenerously misrepresented. Disconnected on, and inferences attempted to be drawn, not only unwarranted, but directly contrary to the intent and meaning of the letter as a whole. Therewith send you the letter which you will publish entire; and I ask of every dispassionate and just man no matter to what party belonging to read the letter calmly and without prejudice. And I further appeal to every just and generous hearted Editor in the State (of every party) to publish this letter. If those who are politically opposed to me, really believe that this letter convicts me of a want of loyalty to the rights of the South, of course they will publish it, and thereby expose me to public censure. Those Editors, who agree with me politically, will, I hope give me a fair showing in their columns.

K. RAYNER.

LETTER FROM KENNETH RAYNER.

RALEIGH, N. C., Oct. 25, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR:—I have received yours of the 21st inst., in which you ask me to give you my candid opinion in regard to Mr. Fillmore's prospects in the Southern States and in the second place, whether I believe the Southern people seriously contemplate a dissolution of the Union in case of Fremont's election? As for my opinions are worth anything, you shall have them, and with that freedom and candor with which I have always expressed myself on matters of public import.

Mr. Fillmore is popular throughout the South, and has been so for years. His political friends in the South do not sustain him because we regard him as a pro-slavery man, for we do not. Not because we believe that if elected President he would be a slavery propagandist, and would use his official influence in favor of slavery in Kansas or anywhere else, for we do not desire any such thing. But we sustain him because we believe that if elected, he would, as President be neither pro-slavery nor anti-slavery, but that he would, nationally, observing the requirements of justice, of duty, of an enlarged patriotism to all sections of our common country. He is popular even with the masses of the Democratic party. For, whilst the leaders, and hirelings, and scavengers of that party denounce him as "an Abolitionist," still the great body of the voters of that party, have a kindly feeling for him, and very many of them would vote for him, but for the pressure of the party screw. On the other hand, Mr. Buchanan has no personal popularity in the South, as, in fact, he has not anywhere in the Union. There is nothing in his name, or character, or the association connected with his political history, out of which they can get up any enthusiasm. And that for the fact that his party leaders are wire-workers, their orators and press-urge him as the especial friend and champion of slavery, he would give us but little trouble, I assure you.

And yet, owing to the perpetual agitation and intensity of excitement that the ruling spirits of Democracy manage to keep up on the subject of slavery throughout the South, I should be wanting in candor if I were to pretend that I thought we could confidently rely on more than four Southern States as against Buchanan. I am bound to believe, from the confident assurance of many of the most reliable men in these States, that we shall certainly carry for Fillmore, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Louisiana. We have an equal chance for carrying Florida. Our friends in Virginia are not without hope, though I do not include that State in my category. We could have carried North Carolina, if Pennsylvania had given 3000 less votes for the Buchanan ticket at the

late election and we are trying our best to carry it notwithstanding.

My dear sir, you can have no idea how the Southern people are worried and bedeviled by Locofocoism, upon this everlasting subject of slavery agitation. Slavery agitation is the very pabulum of its existence to Democracy here in the South. It is their trump-card in every political game.

Whenever the storehouse of their calumnies is emptied, they resort to the charge of Abolitionism against whomever they wish to defeat, as a never failing resource. Many of our Northern people, your orators and your presses, do great injustice to the South, in charging upon the South, as a section, a purpose to keep alive slavery agitation. It is the Democratic party, and they alone, that keep the country in this eternal turmoil and confusion about "niggers," "niggers," "The South, as a section, is not to blame." The conservative men of the South, the reliable friends of the Union at the South, those most deeply interested in the institution of slavery, wish for quiet and peace on this subject. They do not quiet and peace on this subject. They do not wish to hazard either the Union or their own personal interests by this endless disturbance and confusion. They are perfectly willing to rely for the protection of their rights upon the guarantees of the Constitution, and those solemn, time honored compromises, which erected barriers to prevent collisions between the conflicting views and interest of different sections.

I have long believed that the men who keep up this continued fuss about slavery, both North and South, are those who (with some striking exceptions,) care the least about the institution, either *pro* or *con*. The ultra abolitionist of the Garrison and Phillips school, who openly avow that they prefer Buchanan's election, because it will keep open the question of slavery agitation, and the wild men of the South, who had rather see the Union dissolved than slavery kept out of Kansas, are playing beautifully into each other's hands. With both it is a mere party game, kept up for political ends. Why, it has got to be a very common thing here in the South, for the most true and reliable men among us to be denounced as "unsound on the slavery question; as 'fincured' with abolitionism;" by the contemptible party hucksters, that could be bought by any abolition at the North any day in the year, for much less than the price of an ordinary negro. The worst enemies of the South, and of her institutions, are here in our midst. They are those who use this question of slavery for mere political effect—who, rather than let it be at peace, keep it in constant commotion, as a means of enabling them to hold on to the spoils of office. And if the day ever does come (and they say it will soon be here) that there is a serious collision, and the South is compelled to draw the sword in defence of her constitutional rights, it will be seen that those who are denouncing the best men of the South for a want of loyalty, will be found the first to desert; whilst those, who now contend for peace and quiet on this question, will be found in the van of the conflict, and bearing the brunt of the battle.

No, I repeat it, it is not the South, but it is the Democratic party leaders and their drill sergeants throughout the Union, who are the authors of all the evils that now beset the country, growing out of the slavery question. It is no new thing with that party. It is an old game with them. They denounced Harrison, Clay, Taylor, and Scott all as Abolitionists—and they succeeded in deluding thousands of the honest and unsuspecting in the South to believe their slanders against those great and good men. It was, however, hoped and believed that, with the passage of the Compromise measures of 1850, the country would at last have peace on the subject of slavery. It will not be denied by any man, who has any respect for his own understanding, that the Compromise measures of 1850 were regarded by all sections and parties, as a definite settlement of all the disturbing questions growing out of slavery agitation at the time. The news of their passage was received with rejoicing and congratula-

tions throughout the Union. And although ultra Abolitionists at the North, and intriguing disunionists at the South, received the news with croaking discontent because they saw that compromise and peace would render them powerless for mischief—yet, so overwhelming was public opinion in favor of the settlement of the question, that they were compelled to mutter their discontent in secret.

As an evidence of this, it will be recollected that the two great parties that nominated their candidates for President in 1852, (Messrs. Scott and Pierce) expressly declared in their respective platforms, that they regarded the Compromise measures of 1850 as a final settlement of the questions connected with slavery, and that thenceforth they would discontinue any further agitation of these questions, either in or out of Congress. Neither can it be forgotten, that in the Presidential canvass between Scott and Pierce, that portion of this same Democratic party in the South, that had opposed the Compromise of 1850, were loudest in their denunciations of General Scott, because, as they alleged, he was not thoroughly enough committed to the support of that compromise. They showed then, as they have ever done, that they care nothing about slavery, one way or the other, except so far as they can use it, in enabling them to hold on to power and to office.

The House of Representatives, at the first session afterwards, declared, by formal resolution, that these compromise measures of 1850, were "a final adjustment and a permanent settlement of the questions herein embraced." So benign had been the effect of the compromise measures of 1850, that when Congress met in 1854, the country was at peace, slavery agitation, both North and South, had nothing to do. The Democratic leaders saw that another Presidential election was approaching, and that their only hope of diverting public opinion from the miserable imbecility and corruption of Pierce's administration—their only chance of retaining their hold upon the public plunder, was in getting up another furor about slavery. How to get about it was the question. An occasion had to be gotten up, and it was gotten up—far-fetched, it is true, yet exhibiting cunning and deep calculation. The project is sprung of organizing a Territorial government in Kansas.

The Kansas and Nebraska bill excited at first but little attention, and was regarded as a mere question of policy, involving relations with the Indian tribes—for there were no white people there to legislate for. The authors of the movement saw that if by dexterous management they could insert in the bill a hook on which they could hang a "slavery" issue, it might be made to involve the fate of parties, the election of Presidents, and what was of still more importance, the distribution of offices to the amount of one hundred millions of money. Having matured their plans, they at length threw off all disguise—proposed to amend the bill by repealing the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which applied to this Territory, and at the wave of the wand of the Democratic magicians, slavery agitation doffed the habiliments of the grave in which it had been buried in 1850, and stood forth in full panoply, giant armed with the club of Hercules.

The Kansas-Nebraska bill passed with the proviso repealing the Missouri Compromise—and a dark and disastrous day for the Country and especially for the South was the day that it did pass. From that day to this, the country has had no peace. Slavery agitation rules the hour. Harmony has given place to discord. Section is arrayed against section. The herd of agitators has been revived from the obscurity to which the Compromise of 1850 had consigned them. Threats of disunion are rife throughout the land, and knaves and blockheads are longing to lay their unhallowed hands upon the works of the giants of the Revolution. The reign of hireling demagogues is afflicting the country. In the bubbling and boiling of the waters of strife, the very froth and scum of the social elements are floating on the surface of the political cauldron. Even here in the South, the Democrat-

ic leaders are endeavoring to organize a reign of terror, by putting under the ban of public opinion, and denouncing as not true to the South, every man who dares to expose their double dealing on the question of slavery, and their treasonable designs against the integrity of the Union.

The repeal of the Missouri Compromise was tendered to the South as a boon. In accepting it, the South acted with bad judgment, (as I conceive,) but not with wrongful intent. The South did not ask for its repeal. The Southern people were content to live under it and to observe strictly its conditions. In this regard, the South is wronged and misrepresented by the majority of the presses and orators of the North. They daily charge upon the South, as a section, the breach of the faith involved in the repeal of the Missouri Compromise—and many of them would visit their punishment upon the South. All this is wrong, unfair, unjust, untrue. It was the Democratic party that did the deed—it is the Democratic party that deserve their censures—it is the Democratic party that should be visited with their punishment.

It is utterly vain and absurd to attempt to deny or conceal the fact that the origin of the sectional strife and discord that now afflict the country, is to be found in the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. It is equally apparent that the Democratic party, in working its repeal, were governed by mere party considerations; and that in this continued agitation of slavery their sole purpose is the perpetuation of their power. For whilst here in the South they urge the Kansas-Nebraska bill as a great Southern measure for the extension of slavery—in the North they urge it as a measure in favor of freedom and the curtailment of slavery. For myself, I believe they are equally hollow and insincere in their professions to both sections. However, office, *pay*, is the end at which they are aiming, and sectional discord is the means by which they operate. The country will have no peace upon this question of slavery, until the Democratic party is overthrown.

That party deserves the rebuke of the people of this nation for re-opening the flood-gates of slavery agitation, by their repeal of the Missouri Compromise. The election of Mr. Buchanan will be to them the issuing of a license to persist in their course. Settle the Kansas difficulty now and at the end of four years, when there is another President to elect, we shall have slavery agitation presented by them in some other form. Would to God that every patriot in the land could look at this question in its true character. The Democratic party of the present day is the common enemy of all who love peace rather than discord—of all who love the Union, and are determined to sustain it against its enemies, whether open or secret. Why cannot all conservative, Union-loving men unite in destroying a common enemy—without reference to the difference of opinion on more abstract questions?

In reply to your second inquiry, whether the Southern people seriously contemplate a dissolution of the Union, in case Fremont should be elected?—I answer no! Emphatically no! The masses of the Southern people, whether Whigs, Americans, or Democrats, are devoted to the Union; and they will maintain and defend it at the hazard of their lives, and the expenditure of their hearts' best blood. The Democratic leaders of the South, with but few exceptions, are talking of disunion, and are trying to familiarize the public mind with the ideas of disunion, in case Fremont should be elected. And true to their vocation, they are denouncing as slaves and submissionists, all who refuse to unite with them in their mad career. But, even of those who take this ground, but few are in serious earnest.—There is a small faction in the Southern States, who are *bona fide* disunionists—who have been for years maturing their plans—and who would be glad to see Fremont elected, if they thought it would bring about disunion. This faction is inconsiderable in numbers, and bears about the same relation, numerically, to the people of the South, that the band of crazy fanatics at the North, who denounce the Consti-

tution and the Union, as "a league with hell," bear to the people of the Northern States.

But the great majority of the Democratic leaders in the South, who are mouthing and gaseonading about disunion, do so for party effect. Their object is to frighten the timid and wavering. Their purpose is to drive others to the support of Buchanan, through their fears. It is no care for the institution of slavery—it is no concern for the rights of the South that stimulates their belligerent propensities. It is because they are alarmed at the prospect of their loss of political power, at the chances of their being deprived of office, at the bare idea of being driven from the national treasury—like like hungry wolves, overtaken at their prey, they raise this howl of disunion.

They are not in earnest, and if they were, it would be all the same. Fortunately for us, and thanks to the nature of our institutions, this Union can't be dissolved, except by resorting to the source of all power—the people at the ballot-box. And when that first appeal is made, the mass of all parties will be found true to the Union.

They will not agree to overthrow this government, because a man, no matter how odious or obnoxious to them he may be, has been elected President—provided he has been fairly elected, in strict accordance with all the forms of the Constitution and the laws. You may rely on it, that the masses of the Democratic party will desert their leaders whenever they attempt to commit them to disunion, because they have been beaten in an election. It is a reproach and an insult to the Southern people, to say that they would destroy this Union for any such cause; and as a southern man, I hurl back the charge, as a slander and a wrong upon the conservative masses of the South. The people of the South know too well what this Union cost—they know too well what its blessings are—they can too plainly foresee the horrible consequences and dread disasters which must ensue upon its disruption.

I am not to be understood and intimating that the Southern people would submit to any palpable invasion of their constitutional rights, rather than run the hazards of disunion. They regard the Union as designed for the protection of their rights and their liberties, and if it were perverted to their destruction, instead of their preservation, of course they would resist. And if it should so turn out that Fremont is elected—fairly elected—constitutionally elected—if I knew anything of the character of the Southern people, they would wait till he disclosed his policy. If he was to attempt any invasion of our constitutional rights, and he should be sustained by the other departments of the government, then I take it for granted he would be resisted without reckoning the cost.

But in case he attempted no such invasion of our rights, I hazard nothing in saying the Southern people would prove true to the past history of the Anglo-Saxon race—whose peculiar national trait has ever been obedience to law, as long as no vital surrender of civil liberty was involved.—Being no partisan of Fremont, of course I have no advice to give, or suggestion to make to his friends. But to every friend of Fillmore I would say—be not alarmed or induced to support Buchanan, by these threats of disunion on the part of the Democratic leaders of the South.

They are all vain and idle, and are so regarded here. And even if they were not, the most effective aid you can render to the cause of the Union is trying to overthrow the Democratic party, whose continued agitation of the question of slavery, will, if not arrested and rebuked, sow the seeds of disaffection throughout the land, from which posterity must ultimately reap the harvest of disunion. The approaching election involves consequences of the most momentous character. Much, very much, almost everything depends upon Pennsylvania.—

If there is harmony and concord, and concert of action, among the conservative men, the Union men of Pennsylvania, I fear not the result. If all those who are opposed to slavery agitation—who think that the Pierce-Buchanan party deserve to be rebuked for their having brought the country to its present unhappy condition, will unite cordially in support of the SAME TICKET, our country may yet be saved, and peace and calm and sun-shine will return to our borders. But, if they allow differences on minor questions to mar their concert, and to paralyze their energies, awful may be the consequences which they will entail on their country.

Yours, truly,  
K. RAYNER.

Mr. Buchanan is stated to be a regular attendant of the Presbyterian Church, with strong religious impressions, but not a communicant.

## An Impatient Jurymen.

An Arkansas correspondent of the New Orleans Picayune gives the following as authentic:

You are all fond of cracking jokes at the expense of Arkansas; now here is one on your State, absolutely true. I got it from an eye-witness:

The district court in one of your northern parishes was in session—'twas the first day of the court; time, after dinner. Lawyers and others had dined and were sitting out before the hotel, and a long, lank, unsophisticated countryman came up and unceremoniously made himself one of 'em and remarked:

"Gentlemen, I wish you would go on with this court, for I want to go home—I left Betsy a looking out!"

"Ah!" said one of the lawyers, "and pray, sir, what detains you at court?"

"Why, sir," said the countryman, "I'm fatched here as a jury, and they say if I go home they will have to find me, and they moun't do that as I live a good piece."

"What jury 'are you on?" asked a lawyer.

"Wat jury?"

"Yes, what jury. Grand or traverse jury?"

"Grand or travis jury? dad-fetched if I know."

"Well," said the lawyer, "did the Judge charge you?"

"Well, squire," said he, "the little fellow that sits in the pulpit and kinder bosses it over the crowd, give us a talk, but I don't know whether he charged anything or not."

The crowd broke up in a roar of laughter, and the sheriff called court.

## A Battle-Field for Sale.

The battle-field of Marengo with its palatial monument, its rich museum of precious objects, and its rich historic souvenirs, is now offered at public auction in the streets of Paris.

The domain of Marengo is situated near Alexandria, in Piedmont, on the line of the railroad between Genoa and Turin, and contains about two hundred and fifty acres of ground, vines, woods and fields, watered by the Servia. The monumental palace destined to perpetuate the memory of the glorious battle of Marengo, gained in 1800 by Napoleon, was built by the Chevalier Delavo in 1845, and is a large and handsome palace. It contains furniture objects of art, paintings and statues commemorative of the battle, and a museum composed of objects which belonged to Napoleon and Desaix, and arms found on the field of battle. This museum is collected in the old tavern which stood on the ground before the battle, and around which the palace is built.

For the information of foreigners ambitious for an Italian residence and for Bonapartist souvenirs, I should add that the upset price of the whole property is 600,000 francs, and that there is a good mill privilege on the premises.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Times.

## Methodist Protestants.

The annual Conference of this denomination was held at Mt. Moriah Guilford Co., on the 6th inst. Thirty lay and twenty-eight clerical delegates were in attendance.

The Conference resolved to establish a female seminary of high grade at Jamestown; and Messrs. G. C. Mendenhall, J. W. Field, J. F. Speight, L. W. Bachelor, Calvin Johnson, C. H. Wiley, Alex. Robbins, C. J. F. Harris and J. C. Rankin were elected Trustees.

There are attached to the Conference 34 Itinerant and 32 unstationed Ministers.—Number of members 6,229—increase 433: 58 churches, valued at \$30,000; 13 Sabbath schools, 57 teachers, and 416 scholars. The next session will be held at James town in November 1857.—Fay. Obs.

## Bank of Wilmington.

At the second annual meeting on Thursday last, the President reported that the Bank had done a good business, and would declare a good dividend.

Application is to be made to the Legislature to authorize the Bank to pay out and pass the notes of other Banks under their Charters. A very proper application, which should be assented to for this and the other Banks.

Messrs. John McRae, J. R. Blossum, L. A. Hart, J. L. Rathaway, H. H. Russell, A. Martin, of Wilmington, and Robert Norfleet, of Tarborough were re-elected Directors.—Fayetteville Observer.

Creditors never annoy a man while he is getting up in the world. A man of wealth only pays his butcher once a year. Let bad luck overtake him, and his meat bill will come in every morning as regular as breakfast and hungry children.

A LOST ART.—The art of making large loaves with the bakers.