

THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

THE INVOLABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IS THE ONLY SECURITY TO PUBLIC LIBERTY.

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1844.

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T. FOSTER, G. BECKLEY, Editors.

THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY

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THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY: Ann Arbor, Mich., 1844.

SELECTIONS.

From the Pennsylvania Freeman.

At the recent Antislavery Convention held at London, in June last, an Address was prepared and ordered to be directed to the respective Governors of the different slaveholding States of the American Union: It is in reply to this Address, we presume, that the following cavalier-like letter of Governor Polk, of Tennessee, appears. We find it in the Globe of the 10th inst.

From the Nashville Union.

REAL CAUSE OF ALARM.

We have seen in the office of the Secretary of State two communications from the *World's Convention of Abolitionists*, under the seal of the British and Foreign Abolition Society, one of them FRANKED by S. M. GATES, A WHIG MEMBER OF CONGRESS, from New York, and both addressed to "His Excellency, James K. Polk, Governor of the State of Tennessee." *They are INCENSED!* or we would lay them before the public: We have permission, however, to publish the letter of the Governor in reply to Gates, which is as follows:

NASHVILLE, (Tenn.) Oct. 2, 1840.

TO THE HON. S. M. GATES,

Member of Congress from

the State of New York.

SIR—I have received, through the

post office, a communication, under your

official frank as a member of Con-

gress, containing certain proceedings

of a body of men styling themselves, "A

Convention of the friends of the negro,

assembled from various parts of the world,

convened for the purpose of promoting

the immediate, entire and universal ab-

olition of slavery and the slave trade."

This Convention, it appears, was held

at London in the month of June last.

The envelope covering the communi-

cation, which comes to me under your

frank, is postmarked at the city of New

York—is sealed with a stamp bearing

the pictorial representation of a person

in an imploring attitude, and encircled

with the words, "British and Foreign Anti-

Slavery Society." The communication

itself contains an appeal to the Governor

of Tennessee to employ all the influence

and power with which Divine Providence

has entrusted him, to secure immediate

and unconditional liberty to the slave."

The fact is indisputable that you have

lent your official frank to this self-styled

"World's Convention of Abolitionists," as

a means of enabling them to send their

infamous publications in manuscript thro'

the United States mails, free of expense,

and the presumption therefore is, that

you countenance, and approve the pro-

ceedings which you aid them to circulate.

In a postscript to the communication bear-

ing your frank, I am requested to ac-

knowledge its receipt in a letter addressed

to the "President of the Convention at

London." This request I shall disregard.

I can not recognize by any act of mine,

official or otherwise, the right of foreign-

ers to make an attempt, in itself so impertinent

and impudent, to intermeddle or inter-

fer with the domestic institutions of

this State. But you, sir, are an American

citizen, and by the part you have

borne have made yourself equally criminal

and responsible with the foreign

agitators and fanatics with whose proceed-

ings you have identified yourself. Were

it not for the official station which you oc-

cupy, I am free to declare that I should

treat the part which you have borne in

this dark transaction with the scorn and

contempt which I entertain for the pro-

ceedings themselves, and which I am sure

all patriotic citizens ardently attached to

the Union, and desiring its preservation,

pronounce upon your conduct.

It is to be regretted that the affected

and hypocritical philanthropy of British

and foreign abolitionists, with whom your

official frank identifies you, had not been

reserved for the suffering subjects of their

own dominions, whose unremitting toil

even in seasons of profound peace is in

many instances scarcely rewarded by the

means of procuring wholesome food and

decent raiment. Unacquainted as the

Convention, whose proceedings you en-

dorse and circulate by your frank, seems

to have been with the peaceable relation

of master and slave in the United States,

their advice is as worthless as it is gratui-

tous.

The foreigner, in extension of his

crime, may plead ignorance of our form

of government, but from you, sir, his A-

merican aid and abettor, no such plea is

admissible. He may be actuated by the

desire to produce insurrection in the heart

of a rival nation. But what apology have

you, sir, for lending your official privi-

leges as a member of Congress to aid him in

an attempt to produce anarchy and confu-

sion in one of the constituent sovereignties

of your own government? Have you se-

riously reflected upon the dangers of the

crusade in which you are engaged—a

crusade in alliance with foreigners, which

not only threatens the peace and harmo-

ny of the Union, but may endanger its

existence, if the wicked agitation to which

you give your countenance, is persisted in?

Are you so deliberately reckless of

consequences as to be willing to lend the

aid of your official privilege to counte-

nance and abet foreigners in proceedings

calculated to excite sectional jealousies

and heart burnings—to divide the States

by geographical lines—to array one sec-

tion against another; and that, too, at

the imminent peril of producing domestic

insurrection and servile war? Have you

yet to be informed that slavery existed in

the colonies long before independence was

achieved? Have you yet to learn that

at the adoption of the Constitution, the

adjustment of the slave question presented

one of the chief difficulties to the forma-

tion of the Union which had to be en-

countered—and that it was ultimately set-

tled on principles of mutual concession

and compromise? Would you disturb

the fundamental compact on which the

Union of the States rests? But I will

not argue the question. *It is not one*

which is debatable.

It is a matter of sincere regret that any

American citizen should be guilty of such

high treason to the first principles upon

which these States became united. Your

official frank covering these proceedings

stands up in judgement against you, as a

witness whose testimony is not to be im-

peached.

The only farther notice which I shall

take of these nefarious proceedings of for-

eigners, with whom you stand associated,

will be to expose them to the indignant

reprobation of the people of Tennes-

see.

JAMES K. POLK.

Lake Superior is four hundred and ninety

miles in length and seventeen hundred in cir-

cumference, being the largest body of fresh

water known. It contains many islands, one

of them, the Isle Royale, is one hundred miles

in length, and forty in breadth. Upwards of

thirty rivers empty themselves into the lake.

The country, however, about the whole region

is said to be poor and not very inviting to

the emigrant. The emigration and improve-

ments now in progress on the borders of the

great inland sea will at all events, lead to

the establishment of a few towns and villages on

its borders. The land is not so good, it is

true, as that on the other lakes, but it can

be had cheap, and be made to yield fair

crops.

Hay Raiser.—A few days since, we had

the pleasure of seeing a little contrivance

known by the above name, in operation. It

consists of a large fork, with four prongs, a

foot or eighteen inches in length, about seventy

feet rope and two pulleys. The whole cost

of one is about five or six dollars, and with it

a boy and a man can unload more hay than

ten men in the old way of lifting it off one

fork full at a time. We are also informed by

a successful farmer, who had recently purchas-

ed one, that although he had only procured

his the week before, it had already saved him

more than double the price of it in advancing

his hay harvest, so as to escape a heavy show-

er of rain.—*Newton (Pa.) Journal.*

Tobacco is manufactured in all the States

except Vermont and Wisconsin. In this

branch of business, 3,384 persons are employ-

ed, and \$3,457,101 of capital invested. The

value of the product is \$4,819,598, nearly

one half of which is in Virginia.

Worldly Justice.—A boy who stole a loaf

of bread in Liverpool has been transported for

seven years. The wealthy merchant who seduced

the boy's sister was imprisoned one night.

COMMUNICATIONS.

LETTERS FROM JAMES G. BIRNEY.

[The following letters from Mr. Birney to Mr. Errett, and to the Hartford Committee, will be read with interest. We prefix the subjoined note, which was addressed to us as explanatory of the reasons why the opinions of Mr. Birney on the subjects here discussed, had not been previously published.]

TO THE EDITORS OF THE SIGNAL: LOWER SAGINAW, Mich. } Sept. 2, 1844.

Gentlemen,—Within the last five or six weeks, I have received letters from persons residing in different parts of the country, requesting to be informed what are my opinions on several subjects of National policy, that now interest the public mind. On the Tariff, I had already communicated my opinion in a letter written in reply to one received from a gentleman residing in Pittsburgh. My opinion on a National Bank—on the distribution of the proceeds of the Public Lands, &c. &c. were given in answer to a written request made by a Committee appointed by the citizens of Hartford, Trumbull County, Ohio.

Under the expectation that my letters would be published by the gentlemen to whom they were addressed, I referred all subsequent enquiries to them for my opinions. But not having seen them, or any notice of them, in the public journals, I beg that you will give them an insertion in yours; and that you will send to each of the subjoined names one of the papers containing them. Very respectfully,
JAMES G. BIRNEY.

[To Mr. Errett, of Pittsburgh.]

LOWER SAGINAW, Mich. } August 5, 1844.

DEAR SIR:—Your friendly letter of 12th July, reached me more than a week ago. Agricultural calls, particularly imperative on us here at this season of the year, have prevented my answering it till to-day. Their continuing pressure will compel me, now, in replying to your letter, to confine myself rather to a statement of the conclusions I have been brought to on the tariff question, than to insisting on the reasons by which I have been led to them.

That our government will ever adopt direct taxation of any sort, as a permanent revenue-system, seems to me altogether improbable—at least, too improbable, to serve as a basis to reason from. A commercial people, as we are, will draw their revenue from the Customs. They will believe—and rightly, as it strikes me—that the proper objects of taxation may be as effectually and as equitably reached by this mode as any other.

A tariff for revenue to meet the ordinary expenditures of the government will have to be the rule. This once settled, should occasions arise demanding extraordinary expenditures, the people will cheerfully consent to higher duties to meet the exigency. But higher duties than are necessary for revenue will never, I apprehend, become the permanent policy of the country. It would not be acquiesced in by a majority so largely preponderant as to produce even silent submission, much less cheerful assent to it, on the part of the minority. The moral influence of our political institutions forbids our looking for such results. These institutions have impressed on us the sentiment, that any inequality of right to enjoy all the benefits flowing out of the action of the government is unjust. The existing generation has grown up under this influence. It has begotten in their strong repugnance—nay, even a spirit of resistance to any and every thing that has even the semblance of *immunity or privilege* conferred on a particular portion of the community. Right or wrong, they believe it savors of the Aristocratical, in the most odious sense of that word, as it is received—and naturally enough—by a people whose Constitution and form of government declares them all equally entitled to its benefits. To insist on a protective tariff, then, further than a revenue tariff can be made protective, is, as it seems to me, to oppose the natural—the constant and therefore, in the end, the irresistible influence of principles that lie at the foundation of our political organization.

There are other circumstances too important to be passed by unnoticed. The uninterrupted peace that we have enjoyed with European nations, and that they have generally enjoyed among themselves for now more than a quarter of a century—the nearness into which this happy relation, aided by the steam-engine, has brought us and them—the constancy of our mutual intercourse with them—the sympathy and co-operation that this intercourse has already brought about among the good and the learned among ourselves and in other countries, in the pursuits of humanity, literature and science—the ties that it has created by marriages and in business of almost every name and description—ties that, under its influence, are multiplying & strengthening themselves every day—all, all contribute to arouse and foster our discontent

at being compelled to pay, at New York or Philadelphia, double price for articles made in Birmingham or Lyons, merely to encourage, comparatively, a very few in our own country to engage in the competition to produce them. It is true, that these causes are almost imperceptible in their processes—but they are, on that account, the harder to be resisted.—They may be slow auxiliaries, but unless I am greatly deceived as to their power, they will be found sure ones, in removing the obstacles yet remaining in the way of Labor every where receiving all that it can justly lay claim to.

The sentiments I have expressed above would not, I know, meet with acceptance in many parts of the country. Many, even of the most faithful of the Liberty party would probably dissent from them. I have not been forward to publish them, lest, by doing so, I might, in some degree, contribute to divert our friends from our paramount object, the overthrow of the slave power;—and because I felt well assured, as I still do, that if the Liberty party come into power, the whole country will soon be brought into the most favorable circumstances for harmonizing all its apparently discordant interests, and for settling on their proper bases all the important existing questions of national policy. Now, the labor of the country is made up of two hostile parts—slave and free. Irreconcilable in their nature, they can never be brought to operate harmoniously together under one system of legislation. Let no one, then, look for jarrings and dissensions to pass away from among us, till slave labor have passed away, or be seen to be passing away, with a certainty of its speedy and entire disappearance.

The accession to power of the Liberty party implies—as I take it—the speedy extinction of slavery every where within our country; and, of course, the bringing of all its Labor into a homogeneous state. Till our labor be brought into this state, all legislation for its benefit must, necessarily, be, in a great measure, unavailing; and this can be done only by the extinction of Slavery.

But you are ready to ask, how could the Liberty party, if in power, extinguish slavery, seeing, as is admitted on nearly all hands, that the general government—except as a war measure, to save itself—has no constitutional power over that institution in the States? I reply—all that is necessary to be done, is, for the appointing power of the general government to bring into its offices and stations of honor and trust and profit, throughout the south, only such as are not slaveholders—only such as practically acknowledge, that all men are created equal and entitled to their lives and liberty.—No objection can be made to the constitutionality of such a course. It is as simple, too, as it is constitutional, and it will be found as effective as it is simple. Its spirit and object would commend it to all, except the slaveholders themselves; for I have always found it true, that however slow a people may themselves be, to put away wrong from among them; yet when once justice is boldly done on it by their rulers, the act never fails of receiving their heartiest sanction and approbation. The slaveholders would at first huddle together for their mutual defence. But it would be unavailing. They could no more withstand the influence of public opinion, now purified by an illustrious act of justice, and flaming on them from every side, than the snow drift of an April night can withstand the meridian rays of the next day's sun.

I have written you a much longer letter than I intended when I commenced writing. The use you may make of it is left entirely to your discretion. I impose no terms of a "confidential" character. I entertain no opinions on subjects of general concern, to which my fellow citizens who feel interested to know them are not perfectly welcome. My opinions

SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1844

THE LIBERTY TICKET.

For President, JAMES G. BIRNEY, OF MICHIGAN. For Vice President, THOMAS MORRIS, OF OHIO.

ELECTORAL TICKET.

ARTHUR L. PORTER, CHANDLER CARTER, JOHN W. KING, ERASTUS HUSSEY, CHESTER GURNEY.

For Representative to Congress, FIRST DISTRICT. CHARLES H. STEWART.

SECOND DISTRICT. EDWIN A. ATLEE.

THIRD DISTRICT. WILLIAM CANFIELD.

SENATE. FOR SENATOR—FOURTH DISTRICT. SEYMOUR B. TREADWELL.

FIFTH DISTRICT. MUNNIS KENNY. FRANCIS M. LANSING.

SIXTH DISTRICT. JOHN P. MARSH. JAMES L. BISHOP.

SIXTH DISTRICT. JOHN C. GALLUP.

OAKLAND COUNTY.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES. JAMES WILKINSON, GEORGE SUGDEN, MELVIN DRAKE, JOHN THOMAS, HENRY WALDRON, SEBRING VOORHEIS.

MACOMB COUNTY.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES. FLINY CORBIN, CHAUNCY CHURCH.

JACKSON COUNTY.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES. THOMAS MCGEE, ROSWELL B. REXFORD, LONSON WILCOX.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES. DELAMORE DUNCAN, HENRY MONTAGUE.

CALHOUN COUNTY.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES. JOHN HARRIS, GEORGE INGERSOLL.

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE. ELIAS COMSTOCK.

WASHTENAW COUNTY.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES. ROBERT FOWLER, GEORGE MILLER, IRA SPAULDING, DARIUS S. WOOD, ALVAH PRATT, JOHN DIMOND.

HILLSDALE COUNTY.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES. LEVI TREADWELL, WILLIAM SAVAGE.

GENESEEE COUNTY.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE. JOHN PRATT.

WAYNE COUNTY.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES. HORACE HALLOCK, JOSEPH D. BALDWIN, WILLIAM S. GREGORY, BENJAMIN STEVENS, WELLS HARTSOUGH, GLODE D. CHUBB.

LENAWEE COUNTY.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES. STEPHEN ALLEN, HENRICH WILLEY, REUBEN L. HALL, N. B. PETERSON.

DELICACY OF ELEPHANTS.

Government, well knowing them to be not only slaveholders, but strong advocates for the annexation of Texas to the U. S., it is very hard of fully and presumption for any consistent lover of Liberty to trust in this party to abolish slavery...

Resolved, That we should as soon think of elevating to the highest places of honor and power in the nation, horse thieves to abolish horse-stealing, drunkards to abolish drunkenness, or adulterers to abolish adultery, as to elevate slaveholders to abolish slavery...

Resolved, That those who can make no more significant manifestation of their devotion at Liberty's Sacred Altar, than the erection of an ash or hickory pole, betray the humiliating fact, that the impulse of such devotion are found not in their heads or hearts, and we regard it as a dictate of common sense...

Resolved, That while the leaders of the Whig party at the North EVERY WHERE declare that slavery has almost every thing to do with annexation, and Henry Clay in his 3d letter declares it has "nothing to do with it," we leave them to harmonize their flat contradictions as best they may...

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Convention be published in the Signal of Liberty.

Resolution first was ably supported by Messrs. Moore, Stewart, Lightfoot and adopted. Resolutions 2d, 3d, and 4th were then adopted. The remainder were laid on the table, and adopted at the evening session.

It being understood that Mr. Barris, our candidate for County Register, was about to leave the county, Foster Tucker was nominated for that office.

Though but a small portion of the Liberty men of the county were present, being busy engaged in their farming business, yet the Court House was well filled with true Liberty men.

L. Wilcox, Secretary. H. A. Horne, Secretary.

It is interesting to see an ABOLITIONIST worshipping at the feet of Henry Clay, who is both a SLAVEHOLDER and a SLAVETRADER.

If there is any "right" more beautiful it is to see a DEMOCRAT worshipping at the feet of James K. Polk, a SLAVEHOLDER and SLAVETRADER.

Liberty Papers.—There are now thirty-five Liberty papers in the Union, three dailies and thirty-two weeklies.

Liberty Association.

A meeting of the Liberty Association of Ann Arbor will be held at the Mechanic's Hall, this Monday evening at 7 o'clock. A general attendance is requested.

J. CHANDLER, Sec'y. Sept. 16, 1844. CASSIUS M. CLAY.

We were pleased when we heard that this gentleman was about to visit Michigan. We had read various letters and speeches of his in behalf of human liberty, abounding with eloquence and fervor.

At the same time, it was also evident that the Whigs of Michigan anticipated from his high reputation among Liberty men, that he would exert a mighty influence in bringing them over to the support of the Whig slaveholding candidate.

Mr. Clay commenced by referring to Slavery and Liberty as the two great principles which have been struggling for supremacy since the origin of our government.

Slavery, under the name of "Democracy," was contending for the Annexation of Texas, the extension of the institution, and the dissolution of the Union, and the formation of new slave States from the territory of Texas.

On the other hand, to resist this foul conspiracy for Annexation, more Slavery, and Disunion, and to defend the cause of freedom, Henry Clay and the Whig party stood arrayed.

Mr. Clay spoke of the constitutional provisions on slavery, and contended that the clause declaring that no "person" shall be deprived of liberty without due process of law, applied to all subjects of the government, whether black or white, slave or free.

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pious clergyman among us would not be good enough for any office whatever. The result would be that all civil government must come to an end; and over 17,000,000 of freemen would be degraded into 17,000,000 of irresponsible slaves.

But further, we had not only no warrant from Reason or Revelation for excluding men from office because they were not sinless, but the Duty himself disapproved of it by acting on a very different principle.

But again, Mr. C. said that if we could not be restrained from dragging the characters of others before the public with a ruthless hand, a conscientiousness of our own imperfections ought to be sufficient. Which one of us was perfect? Who had a character that was entirely faultless?

Mr. Clay said that he ever held himself ready to answer all inquiries that might be addressed to him in courteous terms; and since he had arrived in Ann Arbor, a note had been put in his hands, signed by some of the Liberty men of Washenaw, the purport of which he stated.

The undersigned, members of the Liberty Party of Washenaw County, entertain feelings of high respect and esteem for yourself, as a Philanthropist, and ardent advocate of Human Freedom.

AN ARBOR, Sept. 6, 1844.

LETTER FROM ROBERT EDMUNDS.

Messrs. Editors:—Since you have seen fit to publish a note of mine not designed for publication, and to comment freely on the same, though in a liberal and becoming manner, justice seems to call for some reply on my part, and I hope you will do me the favor to permit me to reply through the columns of the Signal that your readers may judge whether I have any reasons to advance that will justify me in the course I am pursuing.

My course is not judicious if it devolves on him to show us a better one." This better way, by the help of God, I will now endeavor to show. Slavery is an evil, and if an evil, then it is wisdom on the part of those who would abate or abolish that evil to confine it to the narrowest possible limits.

Now slavery exists in the United States under the fostering care of our Government: To annex Texas to this nation would be very greatly to enlarge the borders of slavery under the protection of the same government.

For the Liberty party to vote en masse for Mr. Birney, is to increase the chances for Mr. Polk's election, and the consequent annexation of Texas, war with Mexico, and very probably with England, bringing a debt of untold millions upon our Treasury, to be paid three fourths of it out of the pockets of free labor, and bringing down the frowns of a civilized and enlightened world, and the judgments of a righteous God upon our hypocritical nation.

But Mr. Beckley says, "as we do not favor the election of Polk, we do not favor the consequent evils which he would perpetrate." Let us see whether it is true that Mr. Beckley in the course he is pursuing, does not favor the election of Mr. Polk.

The Liberty party, at the head of which in this state Mr. Beckley stands, is composed of men drawn from the Whig and Loce Foco parties in the proportion as every sensible man knows of three from the whigs to one from the loco focos.

Now it is reasonable to suppose that with the usual increase of the Liberty party, their vote next November will be 100,000 in the United States, 75,000 of which will be drawn from the whig ranks.

Now if we take 25,000 of this number to offset against the 25,000 drawn from the loco foco ranks, we have 50,000 withdrawn from the support of Mr. Clay after balancing those drawn from the support of Mr. Polk, diminishing the chances of Clay's election, and increasing the chances for Mr. Polk's election to that amount.

Mr. B. further says, "it is certain that Clay who says he has personally no objection to annexation, will oppose it politically with any great warmth or perseverance?" On this question, I would remark, that Texas is not now a member of this union and for this happy circumstance we are indebted, not to Mr. Polk or the loco focos, but to the whigs, the staunch friends of the Constitution, and if Texas does not become a member of this union it will be owing to the exertions of the same party.

Now if Mr. Clay personally was ever so much in favor of annexation, with a party in power that must come in with him, he could do nothing towards accomplishing that object so much desired by the slaveholders of the South and loco focos of the North, to their shame be it said.

Mr. B. further says, "Mr. Edmunds virtually proposes to us the immediate dissolution of the Liberty party as the best method of subserving the Anti-slavery cause?" On this assertion it is only necessary for me to say that the whole stress is laid upon the adverb "virtually," and that he has drawn from it as a creation of the brain of the Editor, as I have never advised any such thing, nor have I written any thing to justify the assertion.

As to what Mr. Beckley has said of the Robert Edmunds of 1843 appearing to be a very different person from the Robert Edmunds of 1844, and his being drummed up to vote as he formerly did, instead of voting for righteous liberty and all that kind of stuff, it seems to be a very good natured play and sport of the Editor upon the words of an unpretending farmer, and I will receive it in the same good natured way.

At the same time I would assure the Editors that my views are unchanged. I have the same unalterable abhorrence of slavery, and all the concomitant evils attending it that I ever had.

Perceiving that it is morally certain that one of the pro-slavery parties will obtain the power of the Government, and the exaltation of the loco foco party to power will be followed by the annexation of Texas, and all the train of evils that will follow that event, I greatly prefer the elevation of Mr. Clay and the Whig party, fully believing that in case of their elevation, annexation will be prevented with all the evils that will follow in its train—Slavery under the protection of our Government be confined to the present limits of the United States, no obstacle be thrown in the way of its ultimate Abolition, by the spread of Liberty principles, and the action of the Liberty party, whose ultimate triumph depends on the righteousness of their cause, and to whom I wish success in the ways of well doing.

ROBERT EDMUNDS. Union District, September 2, 1844.

Remarks.—We have given the reply of Mr. Edmunds an insertion, although we are crowded for room. It will be seen that while he acknowledges both parties to be "pro-slavery," he is quite anxious that one of them should succeed in preference to the other; but he reiterates the assertion that every vote for Birney favors the election of Polk. Now we will join issue with him on this proposition:

Every vote given for Mr. Clay in Michigan favors the election of Polk as much as every vote given for Mr. Birney.

Do you ask why? Because it is a fact conceded by sensible men of all parties that the electoral candidates of the Whig party will not be elected in November. We need not argue the case.

The Democratic majority last year was 6,407 for Governor: each of their candidates for Congress was elected by an average majority of 2,208; every Senator in the Legislature was a Democrat, elected by nearly a thousand average majority; and 46 out of 52 members of the House were of that party; and it is stated that in every district whence the six Whig members were returned, there was a Democratic majority for Governor and Congressman.

Now, it is not to be supposed, that the political character of any State, when thus established by permanent majorities in every representative district, will be changed in twelve months without some uncommon cause. Sensible Whigs do not expect any such thing. They know that the State is as sure for Polk and Slavery as New Hampshire.

Well, this being the case, it follows that if 20,000, or any other minority of Whig votes were given for the Whig electors, it will not help the election of Clay in the least. But says the Whig, does not every vote count one towards Clay's election? No, friend, it counts nothing at all unless you have a majority. When you vote for Governor, every vote tells one against an opposing vote: when you vote for President, 20,000 votes will count nothing unless they are a majority. Do you perceive the difference? Now see how inconsistent is Mr. Edmunds, and those Liberty men who may be seduced to vote for Mr. Clay. They say, they want Mr. Clay elected, and they will help elect him. Well, how will you help? "Why, I will vote for him." Do not you see that your vote will count nothing unless he gets a majority in the State—an event which, if possible, is yet very far from being probable. Hence you leave the Liberty party; and yet do not help in the least to accomplish the purpose for which you left it! Is this wise?

Hence the truth of our proposition, that a vote for Clay favors the election of Mr. Polk as much as a vote for Birney: in all probability, in Michigan, neither will help or hinder his election.

It will be seen that our remarks apply to Michigan only. We do not argue that Mr. Clay will not be elected—for we consider his chances to be about on a par with those of Polk. We only say that he will not get the electoral vote of Michigan; and every vote given for the Clay electoral candidates, so far as that object is involved, will be thrown away.

MR. BIRNEY'S LETTERS. On the first page will be found two letters from Mr. Birney, expressing his views on the District of Columbia, and on the Distribution of the proceeds of the Public Lands.

On each of these subjects, we think his opinions will be found to harmonize with the great majority of the Liberty party; and in our judgment, they indicate a course which, if carried out, would highly benefit the whole country. Especially do we concur in the view of the great evils resulting from sudden and important changes in the financial policy of the government. We commend the opinions here advanced to the candid consideration of our Whig and Democratic readers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. The subscriber would gratefully acknowledge the reception of a valuable box of Cloth, through Chas. H. Stewart, Esq. of Detroit, from Jerseyville, Jersey county, Illinois, for the Canada Mission, sent by Mr. Burkes, of Jerseyville, via Chicago.

HIRAM WILSON. Dawn Mills, West Canada, Sept. 4, 1844.

JAMES K. POLK.

The Democratic papers will have it that this gentleman is to be our next President. We should regret to have him for our chief magistrate. He is evidently a bigoted devotee to the system of slavery, and if elected, will doubtless be under the government of such politicians as Calhoun and McDuffie. As our readers are but little acquainted with the sentiments of Mr. Polk, we have inserted on the first page a letter from him to Hon. Seth M. Gates, then a member of Congress from New York—now a member of the Liberty party. Let every body read it; and then ask themselves if a man displaying such a narrow and illiberal spirit towards the cause of human freedom, in all its aspects, can be worthy of the votes of free men.

The last mail brings us the Syracuse Freeman, a Liberty paper, with the following communication in it. Let every "Democrat" read it!

From the Democratic Freeman. Mr. Editor:—Will you have the goodness to insert in your paper the following extract from Roebuck's "Tour through the Western and Southern states in 1836." This work has received the approbation of every American critic, not only for its graphic descriptions of scenery, but for its candid and impartial remarks on men and manners.

Amidst the present turmoil and fanaticism of politics, I would furnish a statement made before the contagion reached us, when there could be no inducement to disguise the truth or publish a falsehood.

"Just as we reached the Duck River in the early grey of the morning, we came up with a singular spectacle, the most striking one of the kind I have ever witnessed. It was a camp of negro slave drivers, just packing up to start. They had about three hundred slaves with them, who had bivouacked the preceding night in chains in the woods; these they were conducting to Natchez, on the Mississippi river, to work upon the sugar plantations in Louisiana. It resembles one of the coffles of slaves spoken of by Mungo Park, except that they had a caravan of nine wagons and single horse carriages for the purpose of conducting the white people, and any of the blacks that should fall lame, to which they were now putting their horses to pursue their march. The female slaves, were some of them, sitting on logs of wood, whilst others were standing, and a great many little black children were warming themselves by the fire of the bivouac. In front of them all and prepared for the march, stood in double file about two hundred male slaves, manacled and chained to each other. I had never seen so revolting a sight before! black men in fetters, torn from the lands where they were born, from the ties they had formed, and from the comparatively easy condition, which agricultural labor affords, and driven by white men, with liberty and equality in their mouths, to a distant and unhealthy country, to perish in the sugar mills of Louisiana, when the duration of life in a sugar mill slaves does not exceed 7 years. Forty-three of these unfortunate beings had been purchased. I was informed, of the Hon. JAMES K. POLK, the present Speaker of the House of Representatives, THE MARK OF THE BRANDING IRON, WITH THE INITIALS OF HIS NAME ON THEIR SHOULDERS, DISTINGUISHING THEM FROM THE REST."

State Liberty Convention. In another column will be found a call of the Central Committee for a State Meeting at Ann Arbor, on the ninth of October. It is expected that this will be the largest Liberty meeting ever held in Michigan.

THE TIME. It is well adapted for general attendance by all classes. The pressure of agricultural business will then be past.

THE PLACE. It is convenient for a full assemblage from all quarters. The railroad affords the best possible facilities for travel from the East and West, while Ann Arbor is the centre of the most populous portion of the State.

THE SPEAKERS. It will be numerous, and the best that can be procured in the State, or out of it.

DELEGATIONS. should be sent from each county, town, and neighborhood. A little exertion of power and action among those wishing to attend from the same vicinity, will enable them to come with more ease, pleasure and economy.

The Ladies are expected to attend, to enliven and encourage by their presence.

The hospitality of the Liberty men of Ann Arbor will be extended to all the friends who may attend. LET THEM ALL COME!

A friend returning from a visit to St. Joseph county sends us nine subscribers with the pay, and adds, "I find Barr Oak, where I spent only two days, wide awake on the subject of human liberty. We have many staunch friends there, and some that have never yet voted the Liberty ticket say that Birney must have their vote this fall. You may look for a large increase in St. Joseph county."

Mr. E. W. Shaw, our agent for Jackson Co., will call on all the subscribers of the Signal in that county immediately. Those who are in arrears will greatly oblige us by adjusting their account with him.

The official vote of Indiana shows a Democratic majority of 2,129; but the Whigs have a majority in the Legislature.

The notice of the discussion at the Liberty Hall, in Detroit between C. H. Stewart and C. M. Clay, shall appear next week.

