

FOR PRESIDENT IN 1860, STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.

OF THE UNITED STATES.
FOR VICE-PRESIDENT,
ANDREW JOHNSON,
OF TENNESSEE.

State Organization.

We learn that the bill introduced in the Legislature for the purpose of taking steps towards the formation of a State Government, passed the Council on the 16th inst, and will likely pass the House next week.

We have the original bill before us, but as it has already been amended in some respects, and probably will be in some others, we prefer waiting it becomes a law before speaking in detail of its provisions.

Congress.

It is not our purpose to comment at length on the doings in Congress. We only intend to make a concise synopsis, gleaned from telegraphic reports and Washington correspondences, yet sufficient to enable our readers to have a tolerably accurate idea of the proceedings of that body.

HOUSE.

On the first day of the session, immediately after the first ballot for the election of a Speaker had been taken, the result of which we gave last week, Mr. Clark of Missouri, after making some remarks, offered the following:

Whereas, Certain members of this House now in nomination for Speaker, did endorse and recommend the book hereinafter named, Therefore,

Resolved, That the doctrines and sentiments of a certain book, called "The impending crisis of the South, and how to meet it," purporting to have been written by H. R. Helper, are incendiary and hostile to the domestic peace and tranquility of the country, and that no member of this House who recommended or endorsed it, or the compend, is fit to be Speaker of the House.

The book above referred to was written, some two or three years ago, by a man named Helper, from North Carolina, on the subject of slavery—ostensibly in the interest of the non-slaveholding whites of the South—pointing out their depressed condition, and designed to stir them up to measures of relief and redress. A number of Republican Congressmen conceived the design of making this book a campaign document, and sixty-three of them signed a certificate of its interest and value as a book of popular instruction on the subject which it discussed. By declarations made subsequently, it seems, however, that most of the endorsers signed the endorsement without reading the book.

The reading of the resolution was the signal for mingled applause and hisses in the galleries, in which a few members joined.

Mr. Clark then proceeded to denounce the work and its endorsers, and finally gave way, after repeated interruptions, for a motion to adjourn, which motion prevailed.

On the following day (6th) the resolution came up for consideration. Mr. Clark concluded his remarks; after which, Mr. Gilmer, of North Carolina, offered a substitute embracing the resolutions adopted by both the Democratic and Whig Conventions in 1852, on the subject of slavery. A motion to lay the whole subject on the table was lost by a vote of 116 to 116. An extended and animated discussion ensued, in which a number of members took part. Sherman of Ohio, Kilgore of Indiana, and several other Republicans, energetically disclaimed the sentiments of the objectionable book, and all intention of meddling with slavery in the States. During the discussion an incident occurred, which is related as follows:

"At one time it was believed the whole body was on the eve of a general explosion. Mr. Stevens of New York had declared that the southern cries of 'disunion,' were intended to frighten the timid of the North. Mr. Crawford, of Georgia, approached Mr. Stevens and rejoined. As the parties approached each other, it seemed to be taken for granted that a fight was on hand, and the mistake came near involving the body in a terrible scene of slaughter, and proves the excited condition of the members. The Democrats rushed to Crawford, while the Republicans came to the rescue of Stevens. It now only wanted the slightest motion or pass, to commence a fight, which would probably have resulted in breaking up the Congress, and perhaps the Union. Some thirty or forty members were known to be armed and prepared for a row. But, fortunately, a motion to adjourn was made and the eyes and ears were ordered, when members returned to their seats and order was restored."

The discussion was renewed on the next day. Kellogg, of Illinois, opened the fight, by stating that Douglas had been chosen Senator in consequence of a back-parlor bargain with Greeley and other Republicans, a treaty with the stipulations of which K. declared himself familiar. The debate following this statement was violent. Pryor, of Virginia, declared that the Northern supporters of Douglas are not a whit souther than the Republicans, and denounced Nelson, of Tennessee, because that gentleman was

unable to regard the election of a Republican President as sufficient motive for secession. Mr. N. replied, and the discussion assumed a personal character.—The union sentiments uttered by the latter elicited the irrepressible applause of the audience. He replied in detail to the remarks of Mr. Pryor, and concluded by saying that Mr. P. had, in his editorial capacity, said one thing which did good service in the late canvass in Tennessee, and to which he, Nelson, fully subscribed, and that was, that "from the highways and by-ways of the Government there comes an insufferable truth."

No progress was made in the way of organization on the 5th inst. The floor was occupied by Davis, of Mississippi, who commented with freedom upon the opinions advanced by republican leaders, and expressed his conviction that Seward should be hung! He was followed by Morris of Pennsylvania, and Corwin of Ohio. The latter made an amusing and conciliatory speech, which was listened to with great interest; in the course of which he pledged his own State and the great West in support of the just rights of the South. We regret not having room for his insertion.

On the 10th, an irregular discussion was entered upon, embracing explanations, and irritating personalities, especially between two members of Illinois—Messrs. Kellogg and Logan, who would have had a fight had not friends of both parties interposed and prevented any acts of violence. A vote was at last taken for speaker, with the following result:

For Sherman, 110; Bocock, 88; Gilmer 20; scattering 13; necessary to a choice 116.

The sittings of the 12th, 13th and 14th of December were likely consumed in the discussion of the slavery question, and the politics of the day. Mr. Hickman, an anti-Lecompton Democrat endeavored to offer a resolution in favor of the plurality rule.

Among the orators occupying the floor we notice the name of Mr. Sickles. No ballot took place.

On the 15th a fifth and sixth ballot were had, and resulted:

Fifth Ballot—Sherman 110, Bocock 85, Gilmer 22, scattering 9. Necessary to a choice 114.

Sixth Ballot—Sherman 110, Bocock 85, Gilmer 18, scattering 13.

On the 16th Mr. Haskins of N. Y., Hickman and Schwartz of Pennsylvania, who are anti-Lecompton Democrats, went over to Sherman. This action was much applauded.

Two more ballots were taken on the 16th, as follows:

Seventh Ballot—Sherman 96, Bocock 86, Gilmer 36, scattering 9.—Gilmer withdrew.

Eighth Ballot—Sherman 111, Bocock 83, Boteler 25, scattering 9.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order on the 5th, at 1:30 P. M., by the Vice President. After the new members were qualified, Mr. Mason, of Virginia, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the facts attending the late invasion and seizure of the armory and arsenal of the United States at Harper's Ferry, in Virginia, by a band of armed men, and report—

Whether the same was attended with armed resistance to the authorities and public force of the United States, and by the murder of any of the citizens of Virginia, or of any troops sent there to protect the public property.

Whether such invasion and seizure was made under any color of any organization intended to subvert the government of any of the States of the Union; what was the character and extent of such organization; and whether any citizens of the United States not present, were implicated therein, or accessory thereto, by contributing money, arms, munitions, or otherwise.

What was the character and attempt of the military equipment in the hands of the control of said armed band, and where, and how, and when the same was obtained and transported to the place so invaded.

And that said committee report whether and what legislation may, in their opinion, be necessary on the part of the United States for the future preservation of the peace of the country, or for the safety of the public property, and that said committee have power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. Trumbull, of Illinois gave notice that he should move to amend it by extending the inquiry to the seizure of the arsenal at Franklin, Mo.

From the first day of the session, to the 14th of December, most of the time was spent by the Senate in the discussion of the resolution, and the amendment proposed. On the 14th a vote was taken, the amendment was rejected—yeas 22, nays 32. Mr. Mason's resolution was then unanimously adopted—yeas 55.

The News.

The Democratic National Committee met in Washington for the purpose of fixing the time for the meeting of the next National Convention. The 23d of April was fixed upon as the time.

Mr. Breckenridge was elected U. S. Senator from Kentucky by 29 majority, joint ballot.

The Legislature of Texas has elected Mr. Wigfall, regular Democrat, U. S. Senator, by two majority.

The election in Kansas has resulted in favor of the Republicans. Their State ticket is elected, and their majority in the Legislature, on joint ballot, will be 68.

Fernando Wood has been elected Mayor

of New York. There were three candidates in the field: Havemeyer, the regular Democratic Tammany Hall nominee; Oplike, Republican candidate; and Wood, who bolted the Democratic ticket.

In the Senate Democratic Caucus held in Washington on the 14th inst., Mr. Toombs advocated the restoration of Mr. Douglas as Chairman of the Committee on Territories, but no vote was taken on that point; as Mr. Toombs stood alone in the caucus in entertaining that desire. Messrs. Pugh and Douglas were not in the caucus.

It is now stated that Senator Douglas has decided not to go South this winter, but that he will take his seat in the Senate as soon as he is able.

Sickles writes to his friends in New York "that his reception by his colleagues in Congress, at the present session, has been, if possible, more cordial than ever, with one or two insignificant exceptions."

The abolitionist Curtis lectured at Philadelphia, on the evening of the 15th, to an audience of 200, while about 10,000 attended the outside meeting. Soon after Curtis commenced, several of the mob threw stones at the building, breaking window glasses. Five hundred police, stationed in the vicinity, made a rush at the rioters, and arrested several. This had a tendency to calm the excitement, which at first threatened serious consequences.

The Finale of the Harper's Ferry Insurrection.

Charleston, Dec. 16.

We have had an exciting time during the past twenty-four hours which has just closed, with the execution of the four prisoners. Throughout the day yesterday there was a great influx of strangers and citizens of the country, who were flocking in to witness the last act of the Harper's Ferry tragedy.

At a quarter past eight o'clock last evening the whole town was thrown into commotion by the report of a rifle under the jail wall, followed by several other shots from the vicinity of the guard house, in close proximity to the jail. The military was called to arms, and the excitement became intense, beyond any thing that has yet occurred during our ever memorable era of military occupation. The cause of the alarm was the firing of the guards upon Cook and Copic, who made a desperate attempt to escape by digging through the walls of the jail.

The sentinel near the jail reported that he observed a man on the jail wall, whom he challenged, and receiving no answer, fired at him. The head of another man was also seen above the wall, but he retreated as soon as the first one had been fired at. The man on the top of the wall seemed at first determined to persist, and was about making an attempt to jump down, when the sentinel declared his intention of impaling him on his bayonet, when he retreated into the jail yard with Copic, and both gave themselves up without any resistance.

They had succeeded, after two weeks labor, whenever alone, and at night, and when their bed-clothing muffled the sound of a saw, which they made out of an old Barlow-knife, in cutting through their iron shackles, so that at any moment they could have their work completed.—They had also made a sort of chisel out of an old bed-screw, with which they succeeded in removing the plaster from the wall, and then brick after brick, until a space for them to pass through was opened, all except the removal of the outer brick.

Their cell being on the first floor the aperture was not more than four feet above the pavement of the yard, and when freed from their shackles, their access to the yard was quite easy. Here, however, was a smooth brick wall, about 15 feet high to scale. This difficulty was soon overcome with the aid of the timbers of the scaffold on which Brown was hung, and which was intended for their execution on the succeeding day. They placed these against the walls, and so on succeeded in reaching the top, from which they could have easily dropped to the other side, had not the vigilance of the sentinels on duty so quickly checked their movements.

The general impression is that if the prisoners had waited until midnight or later they might have reached the mountains.

The negroes Shields Green and John Coppeland were executed at 11 o'clock.—The crowd in the town is very great, and the execution was witnessed by 1,600 people. The prisoners mounted the scaffold with a firm step.

Green's neck was broken, and he died without a struggle. Coppeland writhed in violent contortions for several minutes.—The bodies of Green and Coppeland, after being cut down, were placed in poplar coffins and carried back to the jail. They will be interred to-morrow on the spot where the gallows stand.

At about quarter to twelve o'clock this afternoon, notice was given to Cook and Copic that their time was approaching, only one hour more being allowed them. The military movements similar to those at the first execution were repeated, and a wagon with two more coffins were standing at the door of the jail.

Since the attempt of Cook and Copic to escape last night, their assumed composure and apparent resignation has given way, and they now looked at the reality of their fate with the full conviction of its awful certainty.

The wagon reached the scaffold at thirteen minutes before one o'clock, and the prisoners ascended with a determined firmness. A brief prayer was offered up by one of the clergymen, the ropes were adjusted, the clogs pulled down over their heads, and both were launched into eternity. After hanging about thirteen minutes both bodies were taken down and placed in black walnut coffins prepared for them. That of Cook was then placed in a poplar box, labeled, and directed as follows:

A. P. Willard and Robert Crowley, 104 William street, New York, care Adams Express.

The coffin of Copic was placed in a similar box, to be forwarded to his mother in Iowa.

Hurrah for Douglas.

Since the days of Gen. Jackson, says the Cincinnati Enquirer, no man in this country has attained the popularity of S. A. Douglas. It is wide, deep, overwhelming, and pervades the public mind North and South, East and West, without regard to distinction of parties in times past. He is a bold, original, honest and straightforward man of the people; and no combination of mere politicians, office-holders, or expectants of office, can frustrate his triumph at Charleston, and his even more glorious triumph at the polls one year hence.

As the people gather in primary conventions, county after county, and State after State, their distinct, earnest, un-bought declarations that S. A. Douglas is the man of their choice—the man for the times—strike terror to the hearts of his personal enemies and detractors. From what has been thus far, we may predict what will be very soon. It is idle for any aspirant to contest with Mr. Douglas the nomination of the Charleston Convention; still more idle for this, that, or the other would be leader, North, South, or West, to say that he will not vote for Mr. Douglas as the Democratic nominee.—Every vote so lost is an actual advantage to the party, and now, as in the days of Jackson, thousands and tens of thousands of the Opposition will throw into our ranks to fill the places deserted by those who assume to rule us in the future, as they have ruled us, and almost ruined us, heretofore.

There are a few men in the Southern States who desire a dissolution of the Union, hoping thereby to attain an importance which they have not been able to attain by reason of their fanaticism, in a confederacy of slaveholding and non-slaveholding States. These men have associated themselves with the Democratic party of late years, only because it is the predominant party in their section, and as Hale, Sumner, Banks, Hamlin, and other disunionists have attached themselves to the Republican party in New England. But the Democracy of the South are not in favor of disunion at all; they never have been; and, unless goaded to extremity, never will be.

It is now certain that Douglas will receive the votes of the following States at the Charleston Convention:

Maine	5
New Hampshire	5
Vermont	5
Massachusetts	13
Rhode Island	4
Connecticut	6
New York	35
New Jersey	36
Ohio	23
Indiana	13
Illinois	11
Iowa	4
Wisconsin	5
Michigan	5
Minnesota	4
California	4
Delaware	3
Maryland	8
North Carolina	4
Georgia	4
Alabama	3
Arkansas	4
Missouri	9
Louisiana	3
Tennessee	5
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The result, it will be perceived, comes within eight votes of two-thirds—the number required for a choice. The patriotic men of the South, who, uninfluenced by executive favors, devoted to the principles and permanency of the Democratic party, seeing this immense preponderance of the popular will, will readily acquiesce and give the unanimous vote of the Convention. The nomination for President we regard as already settled. The delegates have simply to ratify what their constituents have already determined upon. The only real question will be the selection of a Vice-President, who, of course, will be from the South, and designated by the will of its delegates.

Editorial Convention.

Pursuant to call previously published, the Editors of Nebraska assembled at the Herndon House, in Omaha, on Dec. 6th, at 3 o'clock, P. M. The following representatives of the press were present: M. W. Reynolds and Thos. Morton, of the Nebraska City News; R. W. Furnas, Brownville Advertiser; T. H. Robertson, Omaha Nebraskaian; E. Giles, Plattsmouth Sentinel; Messrs. Burbank and Jamison Falls City Broad Ace; E. D. Webster, Omaha Republican. The following ex-Editors were also in attendance: H. D. Johnson, J. W. Pattison and S. Belden.

Mr. Reynolds was chosen President, and Mr. Giles, Secretary.

Messrs. Robertson, Webster and Furnas were appointed a business committee. The committee recommended the organization of an Editors' and Publishers' Association; a uniform rate of advertising and job work; the passage of a law by the Legislature, establishing the rates of legal advertising, the publication of all laws in two papers at the capital, and laws of a local nature in the county affected thereby.

A committee consisting of Messrs. Robertson, Webster and Burbank, was appointed on permanent organization.

Messrs. Webster, Robertson, Furnas and Reynolds, were appointed a committee on Resolutions.

Adjourned till 7 o'clock Wednesday evening.

Wednesday, Dec. 7.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Mr. Reynolds was called to

the Chair, and Mr. Pattison appointed Secretary.

The following report of the committee on permanent organization, was read and adopted:

Our committee to whom was referred the subject of a permanent organization of an Editors' and Publishers' Association, have the honor to submit the following:

1st. That this association shall be called the Nebraska Editors' and Publishers' Association.

2d. That the officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice President and Secretary, whose duties shall be the same as those usually devolving upon similar officers of other societies, and who shall hold their offices for one year.

Your committee would also recommend the following persons as officers:

For President—M. W. Reynolds. Vice President—R. W. Furnas. Secretary—M. H. Clark.

The Committee on Resolutions submitted the following report, which was read and adopted:

Whereas, The dissemination of public opinion, and the development of the resources and capacities of our Territory are due greatly to our Territorial Press, and that we may be the better able to reflect the voices and sentiments of our people, the Territory, and its several localities, therefore

Resolved, That we, the Editors and Publishers of Nebraska, do form an association to be styled the Editors' and Publishers' Association of Nebraska Territory.

Resolved, That we will hold annual meetings for the purpose of a free interchange of thought and opinion.

Resolved, That we will agree upon the scale of prices by which this association are to be governed and regulated, which is herewith submitted.

Resolved, That we will petition the Legislature to establish uniform rates for legal advertising.

Resolved, That, though differing in political sentiment, we are one in social feeling, and will always recognize in our intercourse with each other, those amenities and proprieties which rule among gentlemen.

Resolved, That a public journal is an impertinence, and should be so treated on all occasions, and that in our intercourse with each other, we will neither use offensive personalities, or encourage them in others, but that we will at all times, discourage their use as ungentlemanly and degrading to the profession of journalism.

Resolved, That we recommend to the Legislature the passage of an act authorizing the publication of all general laws in at least two papers published at the capital, and one paper in each county in which there may be a paper published, and also the local laws to be published in the paper in the county affected by such law or laws.

On motion, Geo. A. Hensdale, Esq., was proposed and admitted as an honorary member of this association. Also Hon. J. Sterling Morton was proposed and admitted as an honorary member of the association.

The following resolutions were then offered and adopted:

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend the exclusive cash system to be adopted by the newspapers of the Territory.

Resolved, That the next meeting of this Association be held at Nebraska City on the 2d Wednesday in May, 1860.

Resolved, That this association request Hon. J. S. Morton to deliver an address on the next meeting at Nebraska City.

On motion, adjourned to meet at Nebraska City.

M. W. REYNOLDS, Pres't.

J. W. PATTISON, Sec'y.

Nebraska Legislature.

MONDAY, DEC. 12.

COUNCIL.

Mr. Taylor, from the committee to which was referred the bill for the abolition of Slavery, stated that he had been unable to agree with the rest of the committee, and had therefore prepared a minority report, which he read and submitted.

On submitting the report, the gentleman stated at some length the causes which had impelled him to make a minority report. Unfairness had been shown the bill by the rest of the committee; bills were referred to committees as a nurse who should tenderly care for it; in this case was about to strangle the infant in its infancy.

The report was quite an elaborate discussion of the merits of the bill.

The majority report alleged that slavery does not exist in the Territory. He was prepared to show that it does exist. Statements were made, instancing persons at Nebraska City and elsewhere who owned and now held slaves within this Territory. The passage of this bill would end the agitation of the subject.

Mr. Miller submitted and read the majority report, setting forth the chief objections to the passage of the bill. It was altogether unnecessary to pass such a law. The committee, after four days' investigation, have ascertained that but four and a half persons exist in the Territory who can be called slaves.

The bill was introduced for political effect alone, to stir up an agitation which would furnish political capital for Republican leaders, and not for the good of the country.

Quite a warm discussion arose between Messrs. Miller and Taylor, in relation to the making out of their respective reports, which assumed a personal turn, and considerable altercation ensued.

Mr. Taylor alleged that he had made out his minority report without being allowed to see the majority report, which he urged was unusual and unfair, and he asked leave to withdraw his report and make out another, now since he had heard the majority report.

Mr. Doane, who was also on the committee, stated that he had not sufficient opportunity to examine the report, and wished to consider the matter more fully; so the President ordered the reports to lie over under the rules until the following day.

The Sergeant-at-arms announced a message from the House. The message was received; which stated that H. B. No. 25, being a bill for an act to allow the erection of a mill dam across the North Fork of the Great Nemaha River, in Johnson county, had passed the House.

Mr. Dundy introduced a bill to regulate the holding of elections, which passed its first reading.

Mr. Dundy also introduced the following bills, which, on motion, were read the second time by their titles:

An act to incorporate the town of Table Rock; and, an act to incorporate a Seminary in the town of Table Rock.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13.

COUNCIL.

Mr. Reeves, from the joint committee on State organization, to which was referred the bill providing for a State organization, reported in favor of the passage of such a bill, for reasons set forth in the report.

A majority of the people seem to wish a State organization. Both parties in their conventions, have committed themselves in favor of such a movement. The press of the country indicate such a wish on the part of the people. It would induce immigration here. The people could avail themselves of the school lands for the benefit of education. Appropriations would be made to the new State, by the General Government, of public lands for various purposes. By delaying, the best of these lands will fall into the hands of speculators. It would give the people of this country the benefits of representation in Congress. The committee therefore submitted for the original bill, an accompanying bill, and earnestly recommended its passage.

Mr. Porter introduced a bill to exempt Homesteads from sale on execution; read twice and referred to the committee on Judiciary.

Bill to provide for the execution of sentence upon convicts and transport them for confinement to a State elicted some discussion. Mr. Little objected to the bill on the ground that without reciprocal legislation on the part of the State in which such prisoners were sent, and also because the Legislature had no power to change a judicial sentence, such prisoners would be released on a writ of habeas corpus. Messrs. Miller and Taylor joined issue and advocated the passage of the bill, and that subsequent action could be left to the discretion of the Governor.

Mr. Furnas moved to recommit to the committee on judiciary. Motion lost.—Question occurring on the passage of the bill, the vote was taken which resulted Ayes 9, Nays 2. So the bill passed.

The reports of yesterday upon the slavery bill coming up. Mr. Doane moved that it be made the special order of the day at 2 o'clock on Tuesday, the 27th inst, two weeks from to day. Several warm speeches were made on the motion by Messrs. Taylor, Little, Miller and Reeves. Motion was put and carried, so the bill was made special order in committee of the whole, two weeks from to day.

HOUSE.

Mr. Baker presented a petition from the citizens of Peru, praying for a special act of incorporation. Referred to committee on incorporations.

Several Bills were introduced. The committee on elections, to which was referred the petition of R. S. Parks, asking for seat as a member from the gold regions, reported adversely on the ground that under the organic act the petitioner could not be admitted. Report adopted.

Several reports from standing committees were also made, but no definite action was taken on any bill.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14.

COUNCIL.

Mr. Furnas introduced a bill for the better regulation of schools in Nebraska. Read second time and referred to the committee on Education.

Mr. Boykin introduced a bill to better define the boundaries of the town of Belle vue, and for other purposes. As there seemed to be an urgency for the passage of this bill, it was, on motion to suspend, read the third time and passed.

Mr. Collier introduced a bill to dissolve the bonds of matrimony existing between James Clark and Wealthy J. Clark, which was read a second time, and on motion, referred to a select committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Collier, Furnas and Dundy.

Bill on their third reading being in order, the Council Bill to legalize the first organization of Gage County, was read the third time and passed.

H. F. No. 22, authorizing the Treasurer of Johnson County, to collect taxes in said county, passed on its second reading.

H. F. No. 4, concerning the levying and collection of taxes, being a general law concerning the same, was passed on its third reading.

A bill to incorporate the "Platte river Bridge and Ferry Company," consisting of Moses F. Shinn and others, was taken up on its third reading and passed.

Council went into Committee of the whole on the State organization Bill.

HOUSE.

On motion of Mr. Keeling, leave of absence was granted to Mr. Crows on account of sickness.

Mr. Goshen introduced H. F. No. 47, requiring County Commissioners to give official bond. Read second time and referred to committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Baker introduced H. F. No. 50, to review and change the Territorial road running from Jamison's Mill, in Otoe county, to Hoover's Mill, in Nemaha county, which was