

It was a glorious party. With it commenced my political existence; with it, it will end. To it I have given the best years of my life; to it I have sacrificed my health; my attachment to it was too instinctively strong to be deceived. The child might more easily be cheated into believing the thieving Gipsy to be its mother, than a true Whig from the start, be made to recognize his warm and living party in the lifeless, soulless substitute sought to be palmed upon him.

It was a glorious party! Its members were not collected like vultures by the carrion scent of prey—not bandits united by a partnership in plunder, but, disinterested and patriotic—it was a bright emanation from a free, intelligent and virtuous people. It had for its leader the Man of the Age. Born among the people, his sympathies were with them, a Democrat in heart and soul. Rocked in the severest storms of the Republic, he had become bold in her defense and experienced in her guidance. Sincere in his faith, ardent in his attachment to popular government, inflexible in his honesty, unequalled in his far-reaching sagacity, in the rapidity and comprehensive wisdom of his conclusions, he stood forth as the model of a Republican Statesman. No superior has gone before him, no equal will follow. This man was murdered in the house of his friends.—His assassins are known, and history is preparing to gibbet these Raavillacs in the chains which they have forged for themselves.

But the Whig party is no more.

"The world is all before me, where to choose?

And Providence my guide."

When the vessel in which I am embarked is driven upon the rocks by the winds of heaven, or by the baratrous act of the master, it is but the instinct of self-preservation to bind myself to the largest fragment of the wreck. That fragment is *Free Soil*. To that I will cling till death shall loosen my grasp.

The non-extension of slavery has long been a favorite doctrine with the Whigs of this State, and it so happens that it is the only one of their issues likely to be discussed, or of any practical importance during the next Presidential term.

It is said by the Cass and by the Taylor men who pretend to be in favor of *Free Soil*, that no further legislation on the subject is necessary, that slaves on being taken to *Free Soil* become free of course. It is probably so; but it is enough for me, without entering into any discussion as to the truth of this proposition, that Mr. Calhoun and the ultra slaveholders of the South deny this doctrine. It is therefore proper, if for no other reason, to have a public expression of the Nation's will on this important point.

The most respectable authorities tell me, also, that *Free Soil* is all a *humbug*—that slaves would never be taken to California or New-Mexico. I beg leave to differ with these gentlemen. Admitting for a moment the truth of their assertion, is the *principle* nothing?

It was thought important to exclude slavery from Oregon, although there was little or no danger of slavery being introduced there. The question is now, to the adoption of a general rule. To-day its application may be very impulsive; to-morrow it may be vitally important. It has been adopted in the case of Oregon; shall we now abandon it? Annexation and Slavery go hand in hand. If we annex Slavery with territory, we shall absorb all South America. Refuse to extend Slavery and the rage for annexation ceases.

But the fact asserted is denied. Slavery will be introduced, if permitted, into various parts of California and New Mexico. Slaves were first employed on this continent in the mines of South America.—This species of labor, requiring strength without intellect, is one to which slaves are eminently adapted.

The extension of Slavery is not a *humbug*, but of great and immediate practical importance. It will be decided within the next four years; there is no time to sleep upon it. Unless the real friends of *Free Soil* exert themselves, it will be decided against them. This *Free Soil* doctrine is perfectly distinct from *Abolition*. That, as I understand it, seeks to co-erce the abolition of Slavery in the States already formed. This is in manifest violation of their rights, and in contravention of the spirit of the agreement we have made with them. Abolition is also a moral question, like temperance, the observance of the Sabbath, and many similar questions; however much I may approve of them, I am utterly opposed to their being brought to the ballot-box.

The political questions which must be decided by the ballot are sufficiently complicated. If to these be added the moral and religious questions which will arise, it is evident that the ballot must be abandoned, and popular government become impossible.

The Banner and Intelligencer, the only Taylor papers in Fayette County (Ohio) have been discontinued for want of popular support from the whigs.

Senator Fitzgerald of Michigan, has withdrawn his name from the Hunker electoral ticket, a more suppliant tool of the Michigan Doughface, Rix Robinson, has been nominated by the State Central Committee to fill the vacancy.

The Troy Post says: "There is not enough Hunkerism left in this State to be entitled to the ceremonies of a formal burial. The barnburners certainly have the advantage in number and enthusiasm, if not in character and principle."

Marquette County, Wisconsin, has elected the entire *Free Soil* ticket, including Judges of Probate, Clerks of the Court, Sheriff, and Coroner.

Taylorism in Ohio is getting along finely. The *regular Whig* ticket in Cuyahoga county is composed entirely of Van Buren men, and in Portage county there is only one Taylor man on the ticket. Add to this the fact that Seabury Ford, *regular Whig* candidate for Governor, is also for Van Buren and Adams.

He has recently invested \$100,000 in slaves; he has accepted the Charleston nomination, made for the avowed purpose of opposing it. The South made the Presidential nomination to turn upon this question, and he was selected. The great Ratification meeting held by his friends in California street passed a resolution expressly repudiating this doctrine.

Mr. Webster says if he thought Gen. Taylor opposed to *Free Soil* he would vote against him. On a candid examination of all the evidence, I am compelled to the belief that he is opposed to the doctrine of *Free Soil*, and will do all in his power to defeat it. On Mr. Webster's authority, those who come to the same conclusion must vote against Gen. Taylor.

On this point, the opinions of all the other candidates, Mr. Clay, Gen. Scott, Judge McLean, were frankly and explicitly avowed. Why was Gen. Taylor excused? The North or the South is to be cheated. Which is most likely to be the victim? Friends of *Free Soil*, pause! You are about to be betrayed. When it is too late, you will find that you have elected the only man who could have defeated your favorite object. Hereafter you cannot justify yourselves to your consciences or your God, without requiring a more explicit declaration on this point from Gen. Taylor.

But, expostulates my friend, you cannot vote for Mr. Van Buren. Why not, if he will best effect the object which I have most at heart. I am not a Brabantio, to "refuse to serve God because the Devil bids me." Were my prejudices a hundred times stronger than they are against Mr. Van Buren, I should vote for him if convinced he would truly carry out the principle he now professes. I have no reason to doubt it. His worst enemy cannot say he has not always been true to his pledges. I have been educated in the maximum principles—not men."

For this reason I cannot vote for Gen. Taylor, for whom, as a military man, in which capacity alone I have known him, I entertain high admiration—for this reason I can vote for Mr. Van Buren, whom I have always opposed, and against whom I have many prejudices.

As the representative of Free Trade, a military organization, &c., I opposed him, and would do so again: as the representative of *Free Soil* I will sustain him. In our system the principle is everything, to Free Soil become free of course. It is probably so; but it is enough for me, without entering into any discussion as to the truth of this proposition, that Mr. Calhoun and the ultra slaveholders of the South deny this doctrine. It is therefore proper, if for no other reason, to have a public expression of the Nation's will on this important point.

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WILLIS HALL.

New York, Oct. 2, 1848.

FILLMORE IN THE SOUTH.—The Richmond Enquirer, (Cass and Butler) is exulting over the fact, that the Mississippi whigs do not go for Fillmore. It points to several instances where Fillmore's name was suppressed in handbills calling *Taylor ratification meetings*. What will Northern whigs say to this?

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Morgan Bates, late of the Detroit Advertiser, and one of the most ardent whigs of Michigan, has declared against Taylor.

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The Gold Mania in California.

We copy the following letter from *Washington Union*, giving an account of the Gold-excitement in California.

U. S. NAVY AGENCY, MONTEREY, California, July 1, 1848.

Sir: Since my last letter to you, written in San Francisco, I have visited the "Placer" or golden region of California, and found it all it had been represented to me. My anticipations were fully realized. The part I visited was the south fork of the river American, which joins the Sacramento at Sutter's fort or two miles from it.—This river has its North and South forks, branching more than 20 miles from Sutter. On these two forks there are over 1,000 people digging and washing for gold.

On Bear Creek and Hulo Creek, branches of the Feather river, many are now beginning to work, it is supposed that the banks and bottoms of all these small streams contain vast quantities of gold, and that the valleys between them are rich with the same metal. The people are now working at many places, some are eighty miles from others. The place I visited was about a league in extent; on this were about fifty tents; many have not even this covering. At one tent, belonging to Sutter, there was a moveable sieve or rack to wash down the dirt and shake off the stones.

Holes were made in the bottom of the machine to catch the gold; this was stopped, and this was scraped out hourly. These two machines gathered each day 1 was present three-fourths to one pound each, being three to four ounces of gold per man. These men had worked one week with tin pans; the last week with the machine. I saw the result of the first day's work of two brothers, (Americans) one had seven dollars, the other, eighty-two; they worked on the same five yards of land; one, however, worked less than the whole day. Their plan, like hundreds of others, was first, with a pick and shovel, clear off two feet of the top earth, then put in a tin pan or wooden bowl, a shovel of dirt, go into running water, with the hand stir up the dirt and heave out the stones, until they have remaining a spoonful of emery or black sand, containing one to five dollars. This can be done once or twice a day.

Each day is causing some saving of labor by the improvements in the rough machine now in use. The day I left, some small companies of five to eight men had machines from which they anticipate \$500 or \$600 a day. There certainly must this day be at work on the different Placers, several hundreds of Americans and others, who are cleaning one ounce of gold a day. I have this week seen in Monterey, a California who shows \$400 of gold from the labor of one week; much of it was the size of wheat. I myself weighed one piece from his bag, and found the weight an even ounce. He, like many others, only went up to the gold regions to see the place, borrowed tools, worked a few days, and came home to show his labor, and take up brothers and cozens and provisions. Flour at the "Placer" is scarce at \$16 per 100 lbs. At almost this price it must continue, as people are forsaking their fields. I do not think I am exaggerating in estimating the amount of gold obtained on the rivers I have mentioned at ten thousand dollars a day, for the last few days. There is every reason to believe the amount will not this season (unless the washers are driven from their work by sickness) be any less. In this case the addition of workmen now joining the first ones, and the emigrants from the Atlantic States we shall have in October and December, will soon swell the value of California gold that will be washed out to an unheard-of value.

Many who have seen the "Placer," think it will last thirty or forty years. I should think that it would afford work two or three years to many thousands of people, and may for very many years as I cannot calculate the extent of country having gold. The working of quicksilver mines, like everything else, stopped; three-fourths of the houses in the town of San Francisco are shut up. Houses in Monterey are being closed this week; the volunteer companies of Sonoma and San Francisco have lost several men by desertion.

Under the present excitement, a ship of war or any other vessel lying at anchor in San Francisco, would lose many men. In that town there is hardly a mechanic remaining. I expect the same in Monterey in two weeks. Both newspapers have stopped. All or nearly all the hotels are shut up. One of my clerks, who received \$500 and board, now receives in his store, near New-Helvetia, (\$100 per month; my others are fast closing their books to leave.—In fact, I find myself, or shall this month, without a clerk, carpenter or servant, and all my houses formerly rented, given up to me. In two weeks Monterey will be nearly without inhabitants. I am, with much respect,

THOS. O. LARKIN.

Com. THOS. A. C. JONES.

Keep it before the People.

At all events, we are happy to understand by private letters, that Gen. Cass firmly stands the ground which he has taken. Being applied to formally by a man or two of the Wilmot stamp, HE DECLARED UNHESITATINGLY that he adhered to his Nicholson letter, and to the Baltimore platform; and that if elected President, HE WOULD VETO THE WILMOT PROVISO.—*Washington Union*.

THE PRINCIPLE IT INVOLVES SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Briefly, then, I am opposed to the exercise of any jurisdiction by Congress over this matter; Because, I do not see in the Constitution, any grant of the requisite power to Congress.

The South should never submit to the provisions of the Wilmot Proviso.—Zachary Taylor to a committee of the Mississippi Legislature, Sept. 22, 1848.

If the Whig party desire at the next presidential election, to cast their votes for me, they must do it on their own responsibility, and without any pledges from me.—Gen. Taylor's letter to Col. Mitchell, Feb. 12, 1848.

We know that, in this great part of the country, and LEADING QUESTION of the RIGHTS of the SOUTH, he, (Gen. Taylor,) is of us, he is WITH US, and he IS FOR US!"—*Resolutions of a Taylor Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina*.

I can assure my fellow citizens that, Taylor will promptly veto anything like the Wilmot Proviso. The interests of the South are safe in his hands."—*Speech of Mr. Benjamin Taylor, elector in Louisiana, in Baton Rouge, the residence of Gen. Taylor.*

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