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### MISCELLANY.

Col. Orr's Letter to the Charleston Meeting. WASHINGTON, June 16, 1856.

Gentlemen: I cherished the hope, up to this day, that I would be able to accept your invitation to attend the ratification meeting on Thursday next. I have however, been constrained to abandon the purpose, as I have not yet recovered my strength sufficiently to undergo the fatigue of the trip to Charleston. I regret it the more, because of the indisposition of Judge Douglas, who had completed his preparations to visit your City, and address the Democratic party of Charleston, and is now forced to abandon it by sickness, which confines him to his lodgings.

I concur fully in the objects of your meeting, and avail myself of this occasion to say, that I cheerfully endorse the nomination of Buchanan and Breckenridge.

Mr. Buchanan is an able and accomplished statesman, and in all the public positions in which he has figured, he has fully maintained himself, and oftentimes reflected the highest honor upon the country. His public career has educated him more thoroughly than any man in America in the Legislative and Executive departments of the government. He has proved himself the able legislator, the wise counsellor, the skillful diplomatist. His public and private character is pure and unsullied; and if elected, he will give us an administration marked by prudence, moderation and firmness in our foreign relations, and by justice, right and stern, strict devotion to the constitution in our domestic affairs. All the great interests of the country will repose in the consciousness of security, so long as he remains at the helm. But if he were wanting himself in these high qualities, I should still support him, as the candidate of the Democratic party, standing on the platform adopted at Cincinnati. He accepts the nomination on that platform, and as an honorable man, he is bound to sustain its tenets. That portion of the platform upon which this Presidential contest at the North will certainly turn, is entirely satisfactory to our section, and ought to be so in every locality in the Union, where men intend to sustain the Constitution. I am gratified to know that it is entirely acceptable to the Democratic party, North as well as South. The vote upon its adoption in the Convention is a triumphant response to all those at the South who pretend to doubt the fidelity of Northern Democrats to the constitution on the slavery question. The following resolutions meet the issue boldly and squarely, and the unanimous vote of every delegate in the Convention in their favor, refutes all suspicion of unsoundness in every candid mind.

Resolved, That Congress has no power under the constitution, to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several States, and that all such States are the sole and proper judges of everything appertaining to their own affairs, not prohibited by the constitution; that all efforts of the abolitionists or others made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, or to take incipient steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences, and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people, and endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, and ought not to be countenanced by any friend of our political institutions.

Resolved, That the foregoing proposition covers and was intended to embrace the whole subject of slavery agitation in Congress, and, therefore, the Democratic party of the Union, standing on the national platform, will abide by and adhere to its faithful execution of the acts known as the compromise measures settled by Congress, the act for reclaiming fugitives from service or labor included; which act designed to carry out an express provision of the constitution

cannot, with fidelity thereto, be repealed, or so changed as to destroy or impair its efficiency.

These resolutions, first adopted at Baltimore in 1852, were re-affirmed. Since that time, the Kansas and Nebraska acts have been passed, and their enactment has sectionalized and fused all the elements of opposition in the non-slaveholding States. The Northern Democracy have proved their willingness to meet the storm that fanaticism has raised, and scorning any evasion of the great doctrine of State equality involved in those acts, they united to a man with the South, in adopting the following resolutions:

That we reiterate with renewed energy of purpose the well-considered declarations of former Conventions upon the sectional issue of domestic slavery, and concerning the reserved rights of the States; and that we may more distinctly meet the issue on which a sectional party, subsisting exclusively on slavery agitation, now relies to test the fidelity of the people, North and South, to the Constitution and the Union—

Resolved, That claiming fellowship with, and desiring the co-operation of all who regard the preservation of the Union under the constitution as the paramount issue, and repudiating all sectional parties and platforms concerning domestic slavery, which seeks to embroil the States, and incite treason and armed resistance to law in the Territories, and whose avowed purposes, if consummated, must end in civil war and disunion, the American democracy recognize and adopt the principles contained in the organic law establishing the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, as embodying the only sound and safe solution of the slavery question, upon which the great national idea of the people of this whole country can repose in its determined conservatism of the Union; non-interference by Congress with slaves in States and Territories; that this was the basis of the compromise of 1850, confirmed by both the Democratic and Whig parties in National Conventions, ratified by the people in the election of 1852, and rightly applied to the organization of territories in 1853; that by the uniform application of this democratic principle to the organization of territories, and the admission of new States, with or without domestic slavery, as they may elect, the equal rights of all the States will be preserved intact, the original compact of the constitution maintained inviolate, and the perpetuation and expansion of the Union ensured to its utmost capacity of embracing, in peace and harmony, every future American State, that may be constituted or annexed with a republican form of government.

Resolved, That we recognize the right of the people of all the Territories, including Kansas and Nebraska, acting through the expressed will of the majority of actual residents; and whenever the number of their inhabitants justifies it, to form a constitution, with or without domestic slavery, and be admitted into the Union upon terms of perfect equality with other States.

What Southern man can demand a more explicit recognition of our constitutional rights, than is contained in the foregoing resolutions? Mr. Buchanan endorses these resolutions; and what additional pledge to give us peace and security can, in fairness and honesty, be required of him and his friends?

Mr. Buchanan was the favorite of the South in the Baltimore Convention in 1852, and why? When we acquired territory from Mexico, he was almost alone among all the Northern statesmen in favor of extending the Missouri line to the Pacific Ocean, thereby dividing the territory between the North and the South. He was our friend then, for it will be remembered that our entire section was in favor of settling the question on that basis. His position at that time evinced his desire to do the South justice. When we failed to obtain it—and it was the ultimatum of the Nashville Convention—the doctrine of non-interference with slavery in the territories, was adopted in organizing the territories of Utah and New Mexico, a majority of the South voting for this principle.

Mr. Buchanan's policy not having been carried out and the new basis being adopted, he at once acquiesced in the new principle and gave it as well as the fugitive slave law his hearty endorsement. These are the facts which induced the South to sustain him in 1852, and what has he done since that time to forfeit our confidence and support? Can any reason be offered by the most captious?

But in addition to this, Mr. Buchanan was presented for nomination by his native State, Pennsylvania, with perfect unanimity. What claim had Pennsylvania on the National Democracy? She cast more votes for the Kansas Nebraska Act in the House of Representatives on its passage than any other State in the Union, North or South. Would this thirteen gallant and brave spirits who sustained those acts, have consented to present one of their fellow citizens who was unfaithful to the great principles upon which they had periled their political existence? He was nominated at Cincinnati, and earnestly sustained throughout the voting by old Virginia, the largest of the Southern States, and by her Southern sisters—Maryland, Louisiana and a part of Kentucky,

and subsequently by Tennessee and a part of Georgia, and on the final ballot he received the vote of every delegate in the Convention. This Presidential election is the most momentous which has occurred in our history. The contest is for the supremacy of the constitution over a wild fanaticism, which must destroy the Union. It is now narrowed down to an issue between the Democratic nominee and a Black Republican. Men of the South, which will you choose? It is nearly certain that Mr. Fillmore, in no possible contingency, can carry a single electoral vote in the non-slaveholding States, and if his party in the South persist in supporting him, its only result will be to divide and distract the South. Will Southern men become instruments to accomplish so disastrous an end?

Our friends in the Free States have an arduous if not a doubtful contest, to wage, and when they are making a last desperate struggle to save the constitution, will we prove recreant to our own interests and to every sentiment of gratitude by strengthening the arms of those who are waging a merciless war upon them? Our ticket will receive accessions of strength at the North from conservative men, heretofore belonging to other political organizations and who have refused to affiliate with Know-Nothings and Black Republicans.

If the Black Republican candidate is successful, then we will have reached the last chapter in the history of this republic. It is impossible that the Union can survive such an administration. It is the solemn duty of every patriot, North and South, to gird on his armor; battle against Black Republicanism; and rescue the Constitution and the Union, from the destruction awaiting both, when committed to fanatical, sectional rule. Mr. Buchanan's election will check this rolling flood, and it may drive it back. If the Democratic party at the North are in the majority, I fear no harm to the Constitution or our rights—if they are in a minority, then the South must look alone to the "strong arms and stout hearts" of her own sons.

The nomination of John C. Breckenridge was well and wisely made by the Convention. He is a worthy scion of a noble stock; a good States Rights man by inheritance and by practice; he is a chivalrous son of a chivalric State, and his name will at least induce Kentucky, "his adored and adorning" mother, to re-unite herself to her Democratic sisters, from whom she has been many long years estranged.

As a soldier, jurist and legislator he has a fame far beyond his years, but not greater than his merits.

The nominees are true, sound, safe men—the platform, in all its essential features, is up to the standard of the Constitution, and the people of the South, if they are true to themselves, will triumphantly endorse the action of the Cincinnati Convention and roll up such a majority for the Democratic party as has never before been cast. South Carolina, faithful to the Constitution and devoted to "principles, not men," will swell the column of Democratic States, without division among her citizens.

I trust you may have an enthusiastic demonstration, and reiterate my regret at being deprived the pleasure of participating with you on the interesting occasion.

I am, gentlemen, very truly yours, &c.  
JAMES L. ORR,  
J. J. Pettigrew, Esq., Chairman, &c.,  
Charleston, South Carolina.

[From the Montgomery Mail.]

Hon. Preston S. Brooks.

The notoriety which a recent act of this gentleman has given him will make it desirable to know something of him. As I have known him since I was a boy, and have been one of his constituents and special friends, I will give you a brief history of his life.

He is the eldest son of Whitfield Brooks, a prominent citizen of Edgefield District, South Carolina, who was a candidate for Congress in 1841 against the Hon. A. Burt, who was elected and served until 1852. In 1842, while he was a youth of 19 years of age, in the South Carolina College, his father was challenged to a duel by Louis T. Wigfall, now of Texas. In consequence of his age, the father declined the challenge, and was posted by Col. Wigfall at Edgefield Court House. A young man by the name of Bird, a nephew of the elder Brooks, tore down the posting, and was killed by Wigfall in the fight that ensued. P. S. Brooks, then 19 years old, as soon as he heard of it, hastened home and challenged Wigfall. They fought, and both were dangerously wounded—Wigfall having both thighs shot through and one broken, from which he is lame to this day. Brooks was shot through at the top of the thigh, and his spine was grazed, and his life long considered doubtful.

He is a lawyer, but having an easy fortune he never pursued his profession, but became a scientific and successful planter.

In 1846 he raised, in Edgefield District, one of the companies that composed the Palmetto Regiment, and served as captain through the Mexican war. In 1853 a vacancy occurred in his Congressional district, by the retirement of Mr. Burt, and he entered the field as a candidate. There were three other candidates, one of whom was Francis W. Pickens, a former representative

from the same district, and a very popular and distinguished man. Notwithstanding the greatest disadvantages arising from having distinguished competitors—having a competitor, Mr. Pickens, in his own county—and having taken little part in politics or public life before that time, he was elected by a majority of over six hundred over his highest competitor.

The readiness of his wit, the brilliancy and point of his conversation, and the winningness of his manners, delighted and won the hearts of the people. I have never known a man whose tact and intuitive knowledge of mankind was equal to his. I have seen him thrown unexpectedly into a crowd of a half dozen persons of different characters, none of whom he ever saw before. A rapid glance at them assured him of each man's character, and in five minutes he has struck the right chord upon each man's heart, and he has gained six votes in five minutes. To this was owing his triumphant, and to those who did not know his powers, astounding success. Knowing him well, and his capacity, I was certain of his success, and I caused a considerable depletion of the pockets of those of different faith.

In 1845 he was again elected by more than 3000 majority, over an able competitor. He now has his seat secure, and will not have opposition again.

In person he is tall and commanding, standing six feet in his stockings, is a brunette, and remarkably handsome. He is very elegant and polite, and is an immense favorite with the ladies. In declamation he is dignified, earnest and emphatic, speaks rapidly and with animation. A recent speech of his in Congress in behalf of Mrs. Tillman has recently been extensively published as a model of beauty and touching eloquence. He is now about thirty-three years of age. He studied very little in College, nor did he improve in this respect for many years afterwards. He is ambitious, and this has made him studious of late years. He has strong and versatile mental powers, and promises great ability in future. His courage has often been tried, and is equal to all exigencies. He has great sagacity, and considers well the consequences of any act before doing it. He knew that his attack upon Sumner would suit the temper of his constituents.

BEN LANE.

### My Brother.

Oh, briar-rose, clamber,  
And cover the chamber—  
The chamber, so dreary and lone—  
Where, with meekly-closed lips,  
And eyes in ecstasies,  
My brother lies under the stone.

Oh, violets, cover  
The narrow roof over,  
Oh, cover the window and door!  
For never the lights,  
Through the long days and nights,  
Make shadows across the floor!

The lilies are blooming—  
The lilies are white,  
Where his play-haunts used to be;  
And the sweet cherry blooms  
Blow over the bosoms  
Of birds, in the old roof tree.

When I hear on the hills  
The shout of the storm—  
In the valley, the roar of the river;  
I shiver and shake  
On the hearth-stone warm,  
As I think of his cold—"forever!"

His white hands are folded,  
And never again,  
With song of the robin or plover,  
When the Summer has come,  
With her bees and her grain,  
Will he play in the meadow-clover.

Oh, dear little brother;  
My sweet little brother,  
In the place above the sun,  
Oh, pray the good angels,  
The glorious evangelists,  
To take me—when life is done.

### Farmers in 1776.

Men to the plow,  
Wife to the cow,  
Girls to the yarn,  
Boys to the barn,  
And all deeds settled.

### Farmers in 1830.

Men a mere show,  
Girls, piano,  
Wife, silk and satin,  
Boys, Greek and Latin,  
And all hands gazzeted.

### Farmers in 1856.

Men all in debt,  
Wives in a pet,  
Boys, tobacco squirts,  
Girls, dragging skirts,  
And every body effaced.

NOMINATED.—Hon. P. S. Brooks is nominated by a correspondent of the Charleston Standard as a candidate for Governor of South Carolina. While we should regret to lose his valuable services in Washington, we should nevertheless hail him Commander-in-chief of the Palmettes with delight.

He who greases his wheels, helps his oxen.

### Yankee, French, Dutch and Irish.

A DIALOGUE IN THE MARKET.

Yankee—Hello! Mounseer, what are you going to do with them are frogs there, in that are basket?

Frenchman—De frog? Vy, sare, I will eat de frog.

Irishman—Ato him! what, ato that sprawling divil of a straddle-bug! By J—s! I'd as soon put all the sarpiants that St. Patrick carried out of Ireland in a bag, down the throat iv me.

Yankee—You can't be in earnest now, Mounseer. You aint such a picklerel as to bite at a frog!

Frenchman—Pikkerelle! Vat is dat you call the picklerel?

Yankee—A darned great long nosed fish, that we catch with a frog bait.

Frenchman—Vat you tell me, sare? you bait de frog vid de fish? Mon dieu! you no understand de frog—you no taste, no sense, no skill in the cuisine. Fish do bait vid de frog? Begar!

Yankee—Fish the bait! Why don't you parleyvoo right ceed foremost?

Irishman—Ay, enishlamacree, why don't you put the cart before the horse as I do?

Dutchman—Yaw, minheer, wy don't you dalk goot Enklish, like I does?

Yankee—Dalk! Hy, ha, ha! you talk about dalkin? Why, you can't no more pronounce the Enklish than a wild Hoppinot. You can't get your clumsy Dutch tongue round the words of a civilized language. Now listen to me, Mounseer Frenchman, and I'll teach you how it's done.

Dutchman—No, listen to me, I understand how do bronoushe do most bropper. I comes from de totter side of Enkland, and zure I knows how do sploke do bure Enklish.

Irishman—Is that a reasonable sort iv a reason now? By that same logic I should know how to spake the Enklish still better, for I kim from this side iv England, and was niver across the Irish Channel since I was born, let alone before that. And thin, besides, me great mother was a schoolmaster, and me second cousin on me neighbor's side was a preacher until the bargain; so, Misther Mounseer, I'm the boy that'll taiche ye to spake Enklish properly.

Frenchman—Oui! All speak de Inglese—de Yankay, de Irish man, de Dush man, all speak him bess, and all speak him different! begar! Now vat you call dis—[showing a potato]—pomme de terre?

Yankee—That pum de tar! Why, Mounseer, I call that pum de tar a potato.

Frenchman—Oui. Now, sare, vat you call him?

Irishman—A paratie—a raal murphy—to be sure.

Frenchman—Oui. And now, sare, vat you call him?

Dutchman—Wat I galls him? Wy, I galls him a bodado—and any vool might know dat.

Frenchman—Ha, ha, ha! begar! You all call him different. You all speak de true Inglese, and you no speak him like. Ha, ha, ha! begar!

Yankee—Well, Mounseer, now let me ax you a question. What is this that I have in my hand?—[showing a cane.]

Frenchman—Vat is dat? Vy, sare, dat is—dat is—dat is—Sacro!—me no can tink—vat you call de homme—de rascalle—vat kill A-belle?

Yankee—What killed a belle?

Frenchman—Oui, Monsieur—dat grand rascalle—dat murd—dat knock down A-belle, vile he keep de sheep, de mouton.

Dutchman—Oh, I knows what he means now—he means Gain, de vurst murderer.

Frenchman—Oui—yes, sare, 'tis one cane.

Yankee—Right, Mounseer, it isn't two canes. Now, what do you call it, you limb of old Ireland? you essence of brogue?

Irishman—I'm ather calling it a shalah; and, by J—s, if you don't be aisy calling it names, I'll be ather provin it to ye.

Dutchman—Now, shentlemans, don't vight about a wort. Hark do me. I'll but you out one. Wat you galls dis? [showing a quantity of curd with whey.]

Irishman—Och! and isn't it bonny clapper, sare?

Yankee—You may call it what you please—but I call it lopperd milk.

Frenchman—Lop ear milk! Mon Dieu! de Yankay Millik 'ave de ear—he hear vat we say—Mon Dieu!

Dutchman—Now, you pe's all wrong. Dis, wat I have in de nokkin, is shmeer case.

Yankee—It's a darned queer case, I think. Why, you don't know the difference betwixt tweedledum and tweedledee. So good bye to you.

Frenchman—De feedledum he is no feedlede, begar! [Here one of the frogs hopping out of Mounseer's basket, he pursues him.] Kesh de frog! O me pouvre frog! O me grand fricasse! He scape—he run away—begar!

### The Responsibility of Women for the Health of their Offspring.

Mr. Editor:—A medical writer has remarked, that "perfect health in civilized society is unknown; it exists only as an ideal." This startling truth, which any one of observation cannot dispute, leads to the inquiry, Who is in fault? A full and impartial answer would require us to examine the duties of both sexes. At present, however, we shall only consider the manner in which woman discharges her high responsibilities as mother of the race.

From reports published by Miss Beecher, and others, we learn that our towns do not average one healthy woman. Nevertheless, he who teaches that the sex are in fault for their bodily infirmities, is often regarded as blaspheming; for has not Providence seen fit to afflict them!! Thus by making Supreme Power the scape-goat, they piously relieve themselves of all responsibility for their own sufferings, and those which they inflict upon the race.

When we consider that about every third woman has a diseased spine, that at least every fifth one is scrofulous, consumptive, or possessed of some other disease transmissible to her offspring; and making no estimate of general debility and various weaknesses, that not one in a hundred can boast of having no deformed bones, we are led to ask, what kind of Providence is that who thus delights in disfiguring his noblest work? Providence establishes laws—those who violate them suffer the penalty. If we look from effects to their causes, we can trace to the habits and customs of women many of the evils which have vitiated the human family. It cannot be expected that infirm parents, groaning under a load of disease, will give to the world an iron race. It should not be expected that women who shut themselves in from the inspiring air and sunlight of heaven, confining their labors entirely to the house or living in indolent luxury, will "stamp their race with majestic grace," or transmit to the world offspring possessed of sound mental and physical organizations. As reasonably may we look for pure sparkling waters to flow from a malignant morass.

There are those of the sex that have observed and reflected much, who know and acknowledge that women are in fault, criminally so, for scores of the complaints from which the race suffer. With such lies the weighty duty of commencing a reform, which shall restore to the human constitution some of its pristine tone. At the present time few of our girls reach the age of twenty in a sound condition. Large numbers marry and become mothers—give to the world a suffering offspring, and themselves drag out lives of pain. So it will ever be until education and fashions accord better with the dictates of nature, until parents observe the laws of health themselves, and require them to be observed in the treatment of their children.

Take a fair girl of seventeen or eighteen, who has been so fortunate as to inherit no disease, and to pass through the periods of infancy and school with no other misfortune than to come out rather delicate, teacher by example to submit to fashions, however opposed to the dictates of sound sense and the demands of sound health; they may be, encircle her waist with whalebones and steel; load her hips with skirts, corded, quilted, hooped and starched, tied tensely around the person to keep them in position; have her adopt the sedentary habits of thousands of our women, and then in a few years look at the woman you have re-created from the noble girl.

Her whole body is in an abnormal state. Weakness and disease prey upon a form, which, had a reasonable course been pursued, would have been bounding with health. Thus it is that Providence sends affliction! Were they not invited?

If women would reject in the fulness of life—if they would give to the world an offspring beautiful and noble, let them make the laws of health the great study of life, and the instruction of their children therein one of their great duties.

Let them throw aside whalebones and steel, and make easy but elegant costumes. Let them untie the strings which are doing a work as fatal as the hangman's cord. Let every garment be suspended from the shoulders—let every limb have scope for action—let them spend several hours per diem in the invigorating air which God has adapted for their lungs.

Teachers are grossly in fault for not bringing these things forcibly before their pupils, both in practice and in theory. The long processions formed to take exercises, measured pace, for half-an-hour in the twenty-four, leave no vivid impression upon the pupil, except a remembrance of the stupidity of the performance. Let scholars feel the pleasure of living at least three hours per diem in the open air, and they will readily comprehend when instructed that it is an agreeable duty to do so.

The health of morals and intellect sympathies with that of the body. If the latter becomes prostrate, the former may become enfeebled. It would therefore seem appropriate for our eloquent divines to inculcate, occasionally, lessons upon the important subject of health, and the responsibilities of every intelligent being. The effect would, doubtless, be as beneficial to the human family as homilies upon natural depravity or original sin.