

What Should the Convention Do?

Messrs. Editors: The original motive for calling the Convention, was to provide an agency for carrying out, and into complete effect, whatever was determined on in the Southern Congress, which, by the same act, was agreed to.

That measure, recommended by the Nashville Convention, failed, was crushed and destroyed, by reason of the panic which was propagated through the South by suggestions of intemperate and extreme violence on the part of so large a portion of our people, as to seem for a while, the voice of the State itself.

Under this salutary restraint, we may contemplate the Convention without terror, and anticipate and discuss its proceedings.

In the first place, we may fairly conclude that it will not attempt in regard to Federal Relations, any separate or solitary action, for the State has positively negatived such a proceeding.

In the second place, we may conclude that it will not meddle with our internal organization, for that department has not been entrusted to it by public sentiment, but tacitly withheld.

In truth, the Convention is an accidental body, elected by a very small portion of the people, not according to the usual principles of election, and not in reference to the qualification of its members for special objects.

The initiatory step of the Convention is its organization. This, I suppose, will be made under the very capital rules of our House of Representatives.

The only competitor for this position, would, by possibility, be the Governor, an eminent and most respectable citizen, who has borne his public functions with honor and approbation, winning the applause, and securing the affection of his fellow-citizens.

As to the measures of the Convention, what is very desirable, would be the means proposed of gathering in a general rally, all the South, to a common effort to effect our security by the least possible change, but to effect it at all hazards, and with whatever changes may be indispensable to the end.

A CO-OPERATIONIST.

The various schemes now before Congress to appropriate the public domain evince the growing passion of the West to make a distribution of that domain, for one purpose or another.

Every new session of Congress, witnesses a renewed scramble for the public domain. Those who wish to rise to political power on the shoulders of the Western people, and those who are land speculators on a great scale, will not be restrained by considerations of equity, or constitutional scruples.

Since the West is determined to have these lands, and possess the power by the votes it can command, it were better to make a surrender at once, and let the public business go on, without harrassing Congress at every session with these claims.

OREGON TIMBER—HOW THEY CUT IT.—The trees in Oregon have long been a subject of remark on account of their immense length. A letter from Oregon mentions the fact that the keel of the steamer Lot Witcomb, 160 feet long, is made from the length of a tree.

The manner of felling spruce timber is somewhat peculiar. With a large auger, a hole is bored through the green standing tree, or two holes bored to meet within the white or sap part of the wood.

COURT OF SESSIONS.—The case of The State vs. Geo. Rouse, Francis Michel, James Cahill, and Thomas Hessions, for the murder of John, the slave of Mrs. Allender, again occupied the Court, yesterday.

Tuesday next was assigned for the trial of the same prisoners, for the murder of a white lad, named Joseph McGorty.

At the commencement of the University of Pennsylvania, held in Philadelphia on Saturday, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on one hundred and four graduates, among whom we perceive the name of Samuel Gourdin of this State.

FILE YOUR NEWSPAPERS.—How interesting it would be to an old man to look into the newspapers which he had read when he was twelve, or sixteen or twenty years old!

CULTIVATE THE MIND.—The examples of Dr. Franklin, Dr. Bowditch, and others, show that the most laborious of men may find leisure, or make it, for the culture of the mind.

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The total number of deaths in the city of New-York for the week ending April 3d, was 386; of which number 83 were men, 83 women, 132 boys, and 88 girls.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL.

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 13, 1852.

THEO. J. WARREN, Editor.

Our Market.

The Cotton Market has been inactive since our last at a decline, on the lower qualities. We quote extremes at 1-4 to 7-16.

An Editor's Life.

An Editor's life bears some comparison with that which the imagination of the author of the Wandering Jew assigned to his old hero. As a punishment for his short comings and moral delinquencies, he was sentenced to walk day and night without a moment's rest; his grand march commenced and there was no end to it.

Suppose then, we should commence by saying that Temperance is a cause which should engage the earnest attention of all who love their country, and wish it well, &c. One meets us with the objection that we prate too much on Temperance.

Your last piece of poetry, grows out some crusty old fellow, is enough to melt the heart of a stone. I would, for one, rather hear about the price of "Cotton, Indigo and Rice!"

We confess our non-come-at-ability in this regard; and as we are forced, to some extent, to assume a virtue whether we have it or not, we will endeavor to try and gratify our readers by a general variety.

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We learn from the Charleston papers that M. Kosuth arrived in that city on Friday, and left the next afternoon for Wilmington.

"Knowledge of books in recluse men," says one, "is like that sort of lantern which hides him who carries it, and seems only to pass through secret and gloomy paths of his own; but in the possession of a man of business it is as the torch in the hands of one who is willing to show those who are bewildered, the which leads them to prosperity and happiness."

Good Dividend.—The Mechanics' Bank of Augusta has declared a semi-annual dividend of ten per cent, payable on demand.

Homestead Exemptions.

We find in that excellent paper, the Spartan, (one of whose editors (Mr. TUCKER), introduced last winter, the Homestead Bill passed by our Legislature,) the following compilation of Homestead Exemptions in the different States.

MAINE.—A lot of land, dwelling house and out buildings thereon or so much thereof as shall not exceed five hundred dollars in value.

VERMONT.—The Homestead of every house-keeper, or head of a family to the value of five hundred dollars, and the yearly products thereof.

MASSACHUSETTS.—The lot and buildings thereon occupied as a residence to the value of five hundred dollars.

NEW-YORK.—The lot and buildings thereon occupied as a residence to the value of one thousand dollars.

MARYLAND.—All real estate acquired by marriage during the life of the wife, from execution for debt of husband.

GEORGIA.—Twenty acres of land including dwelling-house and improvements (value of house and improvements not to exceed two hundred dollars) and the additional amount of five acres for each child under fifteen years of age.

FLORIDA.—Forty acres of land to every Farmer; and to every house-keeper residing in a town or city, a house and lot not to exceed three hundred dollars in value.

ALABAMA.—Forty acres of land when not in any town or city, and provided such does not exceed in value four hundred dollars.

TEXAS.—Two hundred acres of land when not in any town or city, or town and city lots, not to exceed in value two thousand dollars.

OHIO.—Every Family a Homestead not exceeding five hundred dollars in value.

MICHIGAN.—Forty acres with dwelling house and appurtenances when not in a town or city; if in a town or city; a lot and dwelling house not to exceed in value five hundred dollars.

ILLINOIS.—Lot of ground and buildings thereon occupied as a residence not exceeding in value one thousand dollars.

IOWA.—Forty acres of land, not in a town or city, or house and lot in a town or city, not exceeding five hundred dollars.

WISCONSIN.—Forty acres of land not in a town or city; or a town or city lot not exceeding in amount one fourth of an acre.

CALIFORNIA.—The Homestead consisting of a quantity of land together with the dwelling house thereon and its appurtenances and not exceeding in value the sum of five thousand dollars.

NEW JERSEY.—A Homestead to each head of a family, being the family residence, to the value of five hundred dollars; not to be assets in the hands of an Administrator, but to remain for the benefit of the widow, and until the maturity of the last minor child.

TENNESSEE.—There is a Homestead exempted in this State to the value of five hundred dollars.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—A Homestead of fifty acres of land, including the dwelling house and appurtenances, not to exceed five hundred dollars in value; and not to extend to any property situated within the limits of any city or town corporate.

LOUISIANA.—A Homestead to the value of one thousand dollars.

For the Camden Journal.

"Sawney—Three Times."

Mr. Editor: "Oh for the good old times" when our grand dames wore dresses spun and wove by their own hands—when they wore shoes made for use, and which fulfilled their destiny, for those yet live who remember when there were no carriages in Camden—calico was the material for a gala dress then, and ladies did not spend their time, and waste their health and money at balls &c., dressed in silks, muslins and laces; with arms and shoulders bare and feet encased in a tiny slipper, or gaiter boot, whose beauty proves the only apology for being bare-footed in such "goodie companies."

"To cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war" upon the noble forests of pine that have stood

in their majesty for ages. "Times ant as they used to be"—all the past is held to be an error, and we whose studying days are over, have to begin to unlearn what the past has taught.

You see, Mr. Editor, how your plank road mania disturbs and confuses my slumbers. I would entreat you on that account again, to "let us alone"—but on another ground I would caution you not to be so zealous in advocating these plank roads: The opinion is gaining strength among the people, that in view of the past, present and future breaking up of parties, they, the people, are being taxed to bridge the face of the earth, merely to furnish a plank apiece to the floating politicians.

Yours truly, SLEEPY DAVID.

TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE.

NEW YORK, April 9.—The sales of Cotton to day were 600 bales.

The Whigs have a large majority of both branches of the Rhode Island Legislature.

In Missouri the Democratic Convention has adopted a resolution in favor of the Compromise, and reasserting the resolutions of the Baltimore Conventions of 1844 and 1848.

NEW YORK, April, 11.—Sales of Cotton yesterday amounted to 2500 bales—prices unchanged. Sales of the week 17,000 bales.

The Assembly of the New York Legislature have rejected the Marine Liquor Bill.

BALTIMORE, April, 11.—The Whig Congressional Caucus adjourned to Tuesday week, without fixing the time and place for the Whig National Convention. The impression is that Baltimore or Cincinnati will be fixed upon.

The Ohio Assembly has passed a resolution to loan the arms of the State to Kossuth.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—There was a good deal of talking last night at the Caucus of Whig members of Congress, but nothing was done as to the time and place of holding the National Convention. The Caucus adjourned until Tuesday evening, when the Southern members will bring up the subject of the compromise.

It is said that Gen. Flores is at the head of the expedition which has gone to revolutionize Ecuador, and that he has from 2,000 to 2,500 men, and a steamer with eight guns, besides several sailing vessels. It is also stated that several American and English officers accompany him, and that some desperate fighting may be looked for. Capt. Jackson, a Texan ranger, is reported to be one of his officers.

ELECTRO-PSYCHOLOGY.—A man styling himself Professor Pennington visited our village during Court week, and gave a series lectures and experiments upon this new fangled subject.—We did considerable printing for him, and he has thought proper to leave without paying us. He visited Lowndesville, and after astonishing the natives there, departed to parts unknown.—We take this method of introducing the Professor to the public, that they may be upon their guard, as he might psychologise others in a similar manner.—[Abbeville Banner.]

Death of the Rev. Wm. S. Potts, D. D.—This distinguished divine of the Presbyterian church, died at St. Louis, on the 28th ult., of consumption, aged 48 years.

No TEACHER LIKE A MOTHER.—Sad indeed is the picture, gloomy the prospect, where the sweet bonds between parents and offspring are early and rudely snapped by death, passion or the force of circumstance. Melancholy and often perilous, indeed is the conclusion of the child, when the mother is ultimately called to her account, ere the bloom of early infancy has passed from her darling's cheek.

Remember Lot's Wife.

FROM ADAM'S WOMAN OF THE BIBLE.

We marvel not that she looked behind her. All the natural sentiments of her heart prompted her to such an act. Yet should she not have consented. There are times when the soul must rein itself up to a desperate effort; when a momentary yielding to natural impulses, of a slight wandering of the eye, or a single word or act of indiscretion, leads on to consequences affecting the destiny and happiness of a life.