

### Who is Gen. Pierce.

As this is the great question of the day, we give the following brief sketch of his life, drawn up by one who is evidently a very friendly biographer.—*New York Express.*

General Pierce is a son of the late Benjamin Pierce who fought in the revolutionary war; was high-sheriff of the county of Hillsborough, in New Hampshire, and was Governor of the State in 1827 and 1829. Frank, as his son was called, enjoyed the advantages of a high education in the neighboring colleges.

General Pierce is therefore of a good stock, and he has proved himself a worthy scion of that stock. He was born in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, and is now about forty-six years of age.

Frank Pierce was brought up to the profession of the law. He now follows the legal profession, and it is estimated that he realizes by it about \$3000 a year. He resides at Concord. In his personal appearance he is of middle height and size, and of good address.

He was elected a member of Congress on the democratic ticket in 1833, and was re-elected in 1835—thus serving four years in the House of Representatives while quite a young man—namely, from 1833 to 1837. He had previously been a member of the Legislature of the State, and Speaker of the lower House. While a member of the House of Representatives in Congress, he was elected a member of the United States Senate for the term of six years, commencing in 1837; but resigned in 1842, the fifth year of his term, and returned to the practice of the law. His colleague in the United States Senate from 1837 to 1841, was Henry Hubbard, who was succeeded by the late Levi Woodbury.

Upon the accession of Polk to the Presidential chair, Mr. Pierce was offered the Attorney Generalship, but declined it. He said he had no desire for public office, and he would never consent to leave his home for any purpose unless to serve his country in war, and that in some case of necessity. At that time, Col. Ransom, who was President of the Military College in Vermont, wanted a commission in order to fight in the Mexican campaign. Mr. Pierce, who was a warm friend of his, wrote a strong letter of recommendation of him to the cabinet at Washington, urging them to appoint him to the command of such troops as might be raised in New England. The reply of the government was, that the request could not be complied with, as it was intended to confer the command upon a New Hampshire man. That man was Mr. Pierce himself. "But he will not take it," said Col. Ransom. "But he must take it," replied the cabinet.

Mr. Pierce was immediately offered the Colony of the New England regiment, and was induced to accept it, and Col. Ransom was appointed Major of the same regiment. Before the regiment was raised, a vacancy occurred in the office of Brigadier General of the Third brigade, consisting of the Ninth, (New England regiment), the Twelfth, raised in Texas, Arkansas, and other Southern States; and the Fifteenth raised in Ohio and Wisconsin. He was appointed to this office; and the other brigadier generals appointed at the same time were Thos. Marshall, Joseph Lane, James Shields, George Cadwallader, Enos D. Hopping, Caleb Cushing, and Sterling Price. He was superintendent of the recruiting service, and took an active part in raising the troops.

The commission of General Pierce was dated March 3d, 1847. He took command of 2,500 men, and reached Vera Cruz June 28th 1847, which shows that he was not asleep. He joined General Scott's army, at Puebla, in July; 1847. He was engaged in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco in August, 1847. He was twice injured in these actions by falling from his horse.

When he reached Contreras, he met Gen. Scott, and under him engaged in the battle there. There was a deep ravine between the United States troops and the Mexicans. The enemy was drawn up at the other side in the battle array, and with his batteries placed. The order was given to charge and outflank them. In charging down, the round shot of the enemy was flying over their heads and ploughing up the ground. General Pierce cutting at them with his sword, would say, "There, boys, is a game of ball for you." In this charge his horse fell and rolled upon him. He was severely injured and the horse was disabled. He mounted another horse, and joined the fight. He suffered great pain all night, and could not sleep. The surgeon ordered him not to go into the field next day. That night they had lain in arms, and the rain was terrible, and the surgeon advised him to go back to San Augustine, where there was a depot; but he would not. He determined to go on to Churubusco.

At a charge in this battle, both his brigade and that of Gen. Shields were ordered to get in the rear. He was again thrown from his horse with such violence that he fainted on the field. Afterwards, when the troops, coming up, wanted to raise him, he told them to charge on and he would take care of himself, though the Mexican Lancers were then charging on the spot, and towards a cornfield. He commanded his troops to charge them in advance.

After this battle an armistice was proposed, and Gen. Pierce was appointed one of the commissioners.

At the battle of Molino del Rey he rode over the field, with bullets flying about him, and was called off by Gen. Worth, who told him he was rash. He was at the battle of Chapultepec; and when the victory declared for the stars and stripes, the South Carolinians and the Ninth regiment, which had fought together at Churubusco and Contreras, met. Their blood had mingled in one common stream, and the Palmetto regiment showed its valor by the number of its men that lay dead on the field. General Pierce addressed them and said, here the extreme North and South had met together, as common sons of the glorious Union—met to maintain its rights and uphold its honor. These battles had cemented the union of North and South, and he hoped they would be forever united. Nine cheers were then given for the Palmetto regiment, which were loudly responded to; and the same compliment was returned by the Carolinians to the Yankees.

After this battle he resigned his commission and came home. The state of his health continued very bad all the time he was in Mexico. He was on the best terms with General Scott and General Scott often invited him to dinner.

On returning to Concord, he continued his

practice of law, and has been in private life ever since. He is married, and has three children.

### Who is William Rufus King.

Hon. Wm. Rufus King, the Democratic candidate for the Vice Presidency resides at Selma, Alabama, and is now President of the United States Senate over which body he presided in the twenty-fourth, twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth Congress. He is a native of North Carolina, is about sixty-five years of age and has never been married. He is, we believe the same William R. King who was a member of Congress from North Carolina, from 1811 to 1816, inclusive.

On the admission of Alabama, as a state he was chosen one of the first United States Senators therefrom and took his seat in that body in 1819—continued to represent Alabama in the Senate for twenty five years, viz: from 1819 to 1844. In the latter year he was appointed Ambassador to France, and represented the United States at that court, until 1847, when he returned to his country, and was again elected United States Senator from Alabama.

Mr. King is of the Southern Rights school of politics, and did not agree with the Union party of the South in their movements. It will be seen, however, by the following letter from him to Capt. Scott, of Virginia that he acquiesces in the compromise.

SENATE CHAMBER, May 20, 1852.

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and hasten to reply. I have little expectation that my name will, as you suppose, be presented to the Baltimore Convention for the high office to which you refer; but, as I have no wish to withhold my opinion on any question of a public character, I comply, without hesitation, with your request.

As respects the series of measures of the last Congress, commonly known as the Compromise, most of them are beyond the reach of legislation; and although I consider some of them as most unjust to the South, I was probably the first individual in the slave-holding States, who publicly took ground in favor of acquiescence, and I am gratified to find that such is now the determination of all the Southern States. The Fugitive Slave Law was enacted to carry out an express provision of the Constitution, and, therefore, does not stand on the footing of ordinary legislation; and, should it so happen that I should be placed in the Presidential office, I should feel myself bound, by every obligation of duty, to negative any act for its repeal, or so to modify or change it as would destroy its efficacy. With the highest respect, I am your obedient servant,

WILLIAM R. KING.

To ROBERT G. SCOTT, Esq.

### Mr. Pierce on Abolition.

We have several times asserted that Mr. Pierce was true to the constitution, on the abolition question. That our readers may judge of this for themselves, we publish below a short extract from his speech in the Senate in 1838, on a resolution presented by Mr. Calhoun, to prohibit the reception of Abolition petitions in favor of abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia.

Standard.

Mr. Calhoun's resolution: "Resolved, That the intermeddling of any State or States, or their citizens, to abolish slave in this District, or any of the Territories, on the ground, or under the pretext, that it is immortal or sinful, or the passage of any act or measure of Congress with that view, would be a direct and dangerous attack on the institutions of all the slave-holding States."

On this resolution, Mr. Pierce, of New-Hampshire said, the Senate had come at length to the ground on which this contest was to be determined. The District of Columbia was now emphatically the battle field of the Abolitionists, and the resolution immediately under consideration, with, perhaps, some modification in phraseology, would present the true issue here and to the country—an issue which would raise, not a mere question of expediency, but one of a much higher character, in which the public faith is directly involved.

That my position, said Mr. Pierce, may be distinctly understood, some explanation is perhaps due to the State which I have the honor, in part, to represent, especially as there is a manifest disposition, in certain quarters, to prevent our voter and misrepresent our motives.

I have given to the resolutions all the consideration which I am capable of bestowing, and have listened to the debate which they have elicited with interest and profound attention.

If the grave objections suggested on the other side were sustained by an examination of the resolutions themselves, or a course of sound argumentation, they would insure my opposition.—What are they? The first that reached my ear was, that they contain latent nullification. I have waited to hear the particular resolution, sentence, or phrase pointed out in which this heresy is supposed to be concealed, and I have waited in vain. Having, then, assertion on one side, and what appears to me to be the plain reading of the resolutions and the frank and unqualified declaration of the mover on the other, I must be excused if I do not take the alarm.

We have next eloquent disquisitions upon the liberty of speech and the freedom of the press.—To every sentiment uttered upon these subjects I yield my cordial assent; but why introduced on this particular occasion, I have been at a loss to determine. Would any man here abridge the liberty of speech, or assail the freedom of the press? I take it not. Is there any thing in the resolution to sanction the invasion of either?—Not a syllable. That these are privileges most dear to every American is freely admitted by all. Why such a variety of changes have been rung upon them in this debate, others may determine. It is not my province to judge of motives, and I would take occasion only to remark, that no man shall make up an issue upon a subject for me, I oppose the Abolitionists, for the very reason that I entertain a sacred regard for these in common with all other rights secured by the Constitution.

But it is further urged against the resolutions, (said Mr. Pierce,) that they are mere abstractions. Sir, it is quite immaterial what name you apply to them; sufficient is it that they meet the case; that they encounter the Abolitionist upon sound and tenable ground, and furnish a conclusive answer to his importunities. To say that the petitions refer only to this District, and that the principles asserted in the preceding resolutions are consequently without application is perfectly idle. It is impossible to read a single number

of the leading abolition periodicals, without perceiving that their object reaches far beyond this District and stops at no point short of emancipation in the States. And, yet, sir, I suspect that you would find but few intelligent abolitionists, who would assert that Congress has the constitutional power to interfere with slavery in the States; but admitting the want of power here, they hold it their duty, as individuals, to persevere in the cause.

Regarding the institution of slavery as morally wrong, or sinful, if you please, they consider themselves, as citizens of the Union, responsible for its continuance, wherever it may exist within our borders. This feeling has its origin, to some extent, in a misapprehension of the structure of our government, and this error the preceding resolutions are calculated to correct. They assert, in effect, that the citizen of New Hampshire is no more responsible, morally or politically, for the existence and continuance of this domestic institution in Virginia or Maryland, than he would be for the existence of any similar institution in France or Persia. Why? Because these are matters over which the States, respectively, when delegating a portion of their powers to be exercised by the general government, retained the whole and exclusive control, and for which they are alone responsible.

Now, let these doctrines be universally understood and admitted, and you take one great step towards satisfying the consciences of honest but misguided people, in one section of the country, and quieting the irritation, for which there has too much cause in the other. This we have attempted to do. We are bound to go further, and frankly declare to these petitioners that so long as slavery shall continue in Virginia and Maryland, it is in vain for them to expect its abolition here; that we are forbidden to legislate upon this subject, under existing circumstances, by obligations hardly inferior to the Constitution itself; that Congress cannot abolish slavery in this District, against the wishes of the inhabitants, without a gross breach of public faith, and an outrageous infraction of private rights.

## THE SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL.

TUESDAY EVENING JUNE 15, 1852.

THEO. J. WARREN, Editor.

### Our Market.

The Cotton market has been quiet since our last, the receipts being light. We quote at 7 1/2 to 9 8/4. Charleston quotations 7 1/2 to 10 1/2.

### Court of Equity.

The Court of Equity for this District commenced on yesterday—Chancellor WARDELL presiding.

### Hon. Wm. McWillie.

We had the pleasure a few days since of meeting with our much esteemed and former fellow-citizen Col. McWILLIE. He was on his return to Mississippi, from Baltimore, whence he had gone as a delegate from his State to the Democratic Convention.

He gave us an interesting account of the balloting for the nominee. He has confidence in Gen. PIERCE, and believes him to be as well suited to the South as any man we could get. The Col. is in "good health, and looks well. We wish him a safe return to his adopted State and to his family. We have no more such men to spare from South Carolina as WILLIAM McWILLIE.

Our townsman C. A. PRICE, Esq., has been selected to deliver the Annual Address before the Literary Society of Cokesbury College, on the 29th inst.

### Nominations for Governor.

We observe in the Carolinian that General D. F. JAMISON has been nominated for the gubernatorial Chair. Gen. ADAMS and the Hon. W. F. COLCOCK have also been mentioned in this connection. South Carolina might well be proud of either of these distinguished gentlemen, as her chief magistrate.

### Accommodating.

In the editorial correspondence of the South Carolinian, from Washington, we learn that the Post Office Department, in response to a memorial from the citizens of Columbia, has ordered a mail bag to be made up at New York for Columbia, thus expediting the mail one day between the two points. The department acted with great promptness in the matter.

### Hon. J. L. Orr.

We are under obligations to Mr. ORR for his kind attention in forwarding us a copy of Hon. VOLNEY E. HOWARD's speech on the Homestead bill.

### South-Carolina and the Presidential Election.

On this subject, the course of the State has been rather anomalous on several occasions. To show disapprobation of the action of the Federal Government, and contempt for those struggles in which the gainers have too often used their power to injure and disturb, she has repeatedly thrown away her vote. In reference to her conduct in these particulars, we do not intend to speak. But it has become a subject of interest, and perhaps of importance, to enquire what will be her policy in the approaching election. What it will be we know not, but as to what it ought to be, we have a decided opinion.

The Democratic Convention, recently in session at Baltimore, has nominated, with great unanimity, Gen. FRANKLIN PIERCE, of New Hampshire, as the candidate of the Democratic party for the next Presidency. Ought this State to support the nomination? Many, no doubt, will insist that it will be a degradation of the State to bring her down from her high position of indifference in such matters to participate in any manner in the struggle of a Presidential election. With reference to the present contest we cannot think so. We have always been, and we are still, the strenuous advocates of that abstract truth and justice which it is supposed give the distinguishing feature to the Carolina School of Federal politics—and it were possible we would secure the full triumph of this doctrine. Although we cannot in any unlimited sense sanction the policy of "the best we can get," yet we cannot so stultify ourselves as to forget the lesson which experience teaches, that in the practical affairs of life, it is utterly impossible to enforce, without occasional modifications, the abstract notions of any school of theorists, no matter how right and pure. Men and nations are obliged to submit their conduct to the requirements of this necessity. Such being the rule that wisdom dictates and principle sanctions, let us look through the mists and vapors of mere transcendentalism in political philosophy, and view the subject in a practical light.

In federal politics, South Carolina has always belonged to the School of State-Rights Democracy—and as she remains in the Union, it is to be presumed she will continue to act with that party, if she acts with any not purely sectional. Whether she will so act, we suppose will depend on the further enquiry as to whether or not her action will tend to maintain her ancient principles, and advance her present policy. We publish to-day an extract from a speech of Gen. PIERCE delivered in the Senate of the United States in 1838, sustaining certain resolutions introduced by Mr. CALAOUN, to prohibit the introduction of abolition petitions, &c. Gen. PIERCE then came up to the mark as boldly and squarely as it was possible for man to do; and the information which reaches us now from all quarters, establishes that he is still sound, and of the strictest sect of the State-Rights Democracy. It appears then, that in supporting him, South Carolina will but maintain her own principles.

But there is also a question of policy involved. In the present juncture of Federal affairs it is manifestly the policy of this State, and of the whole South, to transfer and confine the discussion of the slavery question in connection with the powers of the government to the North. Unite ourselves and divide them, the victory is ours and we control the government. If there is any party to be formed on this question to preserve the Union, let it be there and not here. We have had union parties enough in the South, and the only reason why they have not been formed at the North, is because the South has ever been in too shameful a hurry to preserve the Union, at the expense of right and character. We believe it probable in the highest degree that the "platform" of the Democratic Convention will carry this discussion to the North. Upon the issues submitted, the free-soil and abolition parties will war fiercely with the State-rights democracy of the North, and this last cannot succeed in the country without the aid of the Southern democrat—with it they can. If the Southern democracy therefore will unite, they become not only essential, but available to secure triumph. This ability to give or withhold success, will cause them to be respected and courted, and will put them in position to give law to the entire party and to control once more the federal government.

We think, therefore, that this State should join with all the other Southern States in their support of the Democratic nomination for President and Vice President.

### National Division S. T.

The National Division of the Sons of Temperance of the United States met at Richmond on the 5th inst, and elected the following officers: Most Worthy Patriarch, Hon. John B. O'Neal, of South Carolina; Most Worthy Associate, Neal Dorr, of Maine; Most Worthy Scribe, Frederick Fickard, of Pennsylvania; Most Worthy Treasurer, Robert M. Foust, of Pennsylvania; Most Worthy Chaplain, Leroy M. Lee, of Virginia; Most Worthy Conductor, William Richardson, of New York; Most Worthy Sentinel, J. E. Grosz, of Illinois. The Convention resolved to hold its next session at Chicago.

There is another war anticipated between Hayti and St. Domingo—the Emperor Solonius, refusing to acknowledge the independence of the Dominican Republic, and threatening unless the Haytian flag be hoisted by it he would invade it in October next. Arrangements are making to meet him on the frontier under General Santa Anna with a force of 6000 men.

Mr. John Capps, residing near Marion C. H., had his house, furniture and wearing apparel consumed last week by fire, which originated, it is said, in consequence of his imprudently putting pine straw under his house and setting fire to it for the purpose of destroying flees.

GOOD FISHING AGAIN.—Four gentlemen, who had been on a fishing excursion in Chesapeake Bay, returned to Norfolk on Monday evening last, having caught in less than four hours time, with hook and line, 1238 fish, of which number 1007 were of the kind called "Croakers."

POST OFFICE OPERATIONS.—The Postmaster General established for the week ending the 5th inst., thirty-four new Post Offices, discontinued seven—among them Red Oak Grove in Barnwell District in this State—and changed the names of nine.

We see it stated that the genuine plates of the Bank of Kentucky, of the denomination of tens, have recently been stolen, and a large batch of the notes printed; of course they will be put in circulation. The theft was managed so adroitly that no clue can be obtained to its discovery, or to lead to the detection of the perpetrator. The plates were stolen from the engraver in Cincinnati.

Kossuth says he is very sorry that Mr. Cass has not received the nomination for the Presidency.

Kossuth highly eulogised Meagher in a speech at Utica the other day.

Wm. G. Crosby has been nominated as the whig Candidate for Governor of Maine.

The new Crystal Palace Company has a capital of \$500,000.

The Marion Star states that Mr. Davis, on the 3d instant, killed a rattlesnake, on his plantation, in that district, measuring 5 feet 11 inches in length, and 11 3/4 inches around the largest part of the body, with 17 rattles and a button.

Hon. John M. Clayton is industriously cultivating his farm three miles from New Castle, Delaware, and, instead of running a race with competitors in the political field, is endeavoring to distance his overseer in agricultural pursuits. Each has selected his field, and a wager lies between them which shall produce the richest crop from his allotted portion.

The Texas papers say that there never was a better prospect of a large crop on the Brazos. The cotton, although retarded by the recent cold weather, has generally recovered, and the crop bids fair to be a large one. The corn has suffered some from the drought, but is in a forward condition. The prospect for large crops is very good in that section.

Mr. PIERCE seems to have shown much good sense amid the late excitement. He promptly declined a public reception at Concord, N. H., tendered him in a telegraphic dispatch, and left the Brattle House, Cambridge, next morning, for Northampton, where he will remain some days. Mrs. PIERCE is with him, and in delicate health. They have three children. It is stated that when the telegraphic intelligence came to Gen. PIERCE at the Tremont House in Boston on Saturday—where he was with his lady at the time—of his nomination for the Presidency, a gentleman congratulated him, to whom he replied, "Sir, you could not congratulate a more surprised man."

### For the Camden Journal.

MR. EDITOR: By reference to the Charleston papers it will be seen that the Whigs or CHARLESTON have held a meeting and appointed Messrs. Waddy Thompson, S. H. Dickson, William Gregg, T. Tupper, W. Whaley, Geo. W. Brown, William Patton, H. H. Williams, and Geo. S. Bryan, as Delegates to the Whig National Convention, which meets in Baltimore tomorrow. Being a member of the Democratic party, I feel a little curious to know whether the above named delegation will go to Baltimore to represent the Whigs of Charleston, or whether they will assume the responsibility as did Gen. Calhoun of representing the Whigs of South Carolina; and whether the Preamble and Resolutions complimenting Fillmore and Webster were not intended as gentle hints to the delegation to support those two Northern gentlemen, (because they are whigs) for the Presidency and Vice Presidency. It is hoped the city papers will give us all the information they can, and thereby oblige A LIVE SOUTHERNER.

### The Palmetto Regiment.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

COLUMBIA, 10th, June, 1852.

The medals which were designed by the Legislature to be awarded to the members of the Palmetto Regiment have been bestowed on the survivors of the regiment only.

The following rules will be observed in their future distribution:

1. That medals be awarded to all officers and men who were honorably discharged.
2. That when an officer resigned and another was appointed in his place, medals be awarded to both.
3. That when a man was discharged and a substitute received in his place medals be given to both.
4. All the above rules to be subject to exceptions, where, in particular cases, circumstances existed which should justly deprive the officer or soldier of the honor.
5. That in the case of those officers and soldiers who have died, medals be given to their nearest relative.

In accordance to these rules, all members of the regiment who have not received medals and the nearest relative of those who have fallen in battle, or have died, will send in their names, written at large and legibly, to the Messrs. Gregg, Hayden & Co., Charleston, who are prepared to have them cast, and their names engraved.

The muster rolls of the regiment are deposited in this department; but it is thought the adoption of the mode recommended will facilitate the end desired, which will be compared with the muster rolls to test their correctness.

By order of his excellency the Governor:

B. T. WATTS, Secretary.

All the papers in the State will copy once a week for two weeks.

### South Carolina Railroad.

We copied a paragraph from the Augusta Constitutional last week stating that the S. C. Railroad Company had purchased a site for a depot just outside of the corporate limits of Augusta, with a view to throwing a bridge over the river for their railroad track. We learn since, that the land opposite on the Carolina side has been purchased by the Company, and that all the necessary arrangements having been neatly completed, the work will very shortly be commenced and will no doubt be finished in the shortest possible time.

This it will be seen that this long-contested question is about to receive a simple and effectual solution. It is not one which we had desired or which the Railroad Company have resorted to without having exhausted every means to bring the city of Augusta to a reasonable compromise. We are sorry for our neighbors over the river, but as Caesar said of his dead enemies, "they would have it so."—*Chas. Mercury.*

THE SEASON AND THE CROPS.—The season thus far through remarkably dry, has been highly favorable for the crops generally. Oats have suffered most, and are generally low, but we think the yield generally will be fair.—Corn and Cotton generally look well and with favorable seasons, from this time forward, must turn out a most abundant yield.—*Cheraw Gazette.*

THE CASE OF WM. L. CHAPLIN.—Judge Crawford, of the Criminal Court of Washington city, has rendered judgement in favor of the United States, against Selby Parker and others, who went bail in the sum of \$6,000 for Wm. L. Chaplin, charged with kidnapping slaves in 1850, and also judgement against Chaplin, whose recognisance was forfeited, as he never appeared for trial.

X of the Baltimore Sun says that the Central Democratic Committee, which will act in Washington, have come to the conclusion that they will assess each Congressional District in the Union for the expenses of the election, and not office-holders or office-seekers, and that they will not tax the Government with the postage of the documents to be distributed by them; but that out of the funds thus raised they will pay the postage on every pamphlet or printed sheet that may be forwarded for circulation from Washington.

THE WHIG PRESIDENTIAL CONVENTION.—At a Meeting of the Whig party of South Carolina last evening at the Masonic Hall, King-street, Dr. F. Y. Porcher in the Chair, the following gentlemen were appointed to represent this State in the Whig Convention to assemble in Baltimore on Wednesday next, viz: Hon. Waddy Thompson, Dr. S. H. Dickson, Wm. Gregg, T. Tupper, W. Whaley, G. W. Brown, W. Patton, H. H. Williams and G. S. Bryan.

A preamble and resolutions were adopted, complimenting Fillmore and Webster, and the Delegation was not instructed as to their vote in the Convention.—*Charleston Mercury.*

A beautiful eye makes silence eloquent; a kind eye makes contradiction an assent; an enraged eye makes beauty deformed.

People in Maine no longer ask each other to "imbibe, swallow or smile." The invitation now is, "will you violate?"