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What the Press Say

The Story is told with great simplicity, but with much power and pathos. Whoever takes it up will find it difficult to put it down before it is finished.—*National Era*, Washington.

A narrative of genuine experience like the above, must have fare more effect against slavery than the ingeniously wrought novel, however true to Life its appearances may be.—*American Baptist*.

Here is a book of facts, stranger than Action, and A thousand fold more thrilling; a simple tale of lifelong oppression, revealing the workings of the “peculiar institution” in our country. To the story-loving we would say, here is a story worth reading—*Mission Record*.

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Abolitionists

The Republican party has from this beginning earnestly disclaimed all connection with the ideas, principles or intentions, of the ultra anti-slavery men of the north., the Simon Pure Abolitionists, and their opponents have vainly labored to fasten the name upon them. The fact is that no men have so belabored the Republicans with bitter words, or showed so strong an enmity to their organization, as have these same Abolitionists. In New York, Ohio and Illinois, they have nominated separate political tickets. This suits us “to a dot,” –we desire the support of no man who is so unreasonable as to go further than the platform of the Republican Party.

Central Illinois Gazette

April 21, 1858

Removal of Slavery from Missouri.

The *Alexandria Delta* is another of the newspapers of Missouri, that has the honesty and independence to encourage the cause of free white labor in that state. Its issue of the 30th has the following:

The recent demonstrations in Missouri on the emancipation question, have produced prodigious effect in the northern states. They are understood to betoken the sure and speedy extinction of slavery in Missouri. Thousands and tens of thousands of persons in the east, who have never before entertained the idea, are now seriously considering the propriety of a removal of themselves and families to Missouri. We should not wonder if the operation of this cause alone should bring 50,000 inhabitants into Missouri from the free states in one year from this date; and that 200,000 additional should follow from the same cause within two years.

The Slave Trade Movement.

It is now a matter of notoriety from one end of the country to the other that the prophecies concerning the revival of the slave trade, so often made by leading statesmen of all parties during the last few years, are in rapid course of fulfilment. Not only has the American African Squadron, sustained at vast expense for the purpose of suppressing the infamous traffic become year by year more and more of a farce and a humbug, serving at the present hour more as a protection than a preventive, but public opinion among a large class of southern politicians, has changed to such a degree that their leaders and their party organs have the effrontery to openly demand the restoration of the slave trade, and the brazen impudence to argue its righteousness.

Nor can any candid man, no matter what may be his political bias, fail to perceive that the national executive has been culpably negligent of its duties in the premises, and wilfully blind to operations carried on openly under its very eyes. The public generally are hardly aware of the extent of the commerce in human flesh now carried on between the island of Cuba and the coast of Africa. It has become a regular thing, and the proportion of cargoes lost by capture, either by English, French, or American cruisers, is lamentably small. The English government is the only one which has really done its duty, and we are compelled to look to English sources for almost all of our reliable information. From them we learn that the trade is carried on almost altogether in small and swift vessels the property of American owners, but mainly officered and manned by Spaniards. The facility with which these vessels can be fitted out in our own ports, and under the eyes of the servants of our government is a source of shame and regret to all those who respect the laws.

The recent triumphant success of Captain Corrie and his yacht *Wanderer*, known to be a slaves before he ever left our coast, boasting openly in Washington society of his intended attempt; known by the whole American squadron to be taking in his cargo in the Congo river while they were cruising off the mouth of it; allowed to slip through their very midst and to cross the ocean unmolested, and finally to land his slaves, not on the coast of Cuba, but upon our own mainland, a few miles below Savannah in the State of Georgia, and then depart to again unmolested, no one knows whither; this affair, we say, brings the matter to a crisis.—

When such deeds are possible there is an evident rottenness *somewhere*—where it is not difficult to determine.

The southern papers in their defence of the slave trade attempt to throw back upon the enemies of the peculiar institution one of their own arrows. "If, say they, the foreign slave trade is infamous and criminal, worthy of being stigmatised as piratical and punished with the utmost rigor of the law, the domestic slave trade between the states must sooner or later fall under the same ban of prohibition, they must stand and fall together."

"We gladly admit the truth of this argument, abstractly considered, and file it away for future reference, thanking the True Delta and the Richmond South for furnishing us with so potent a weapon. There is one view of this portion of the case however which is not always made clear to northern readers. We do not do justice to the South when we speak of it as being unanimsously in favor of the slave trade; it is very far from being the case. Not only are there many patriotic and fariseeing men who, taking an enlarged and truly national view of the case, oppose it on grounds of right or of wisdom, but there are slave states against whose direct pecuniary interests a revival of the slave trade would militate strongly. These are the slave producing states of the Atlantic coast, as distinguished from the slave consuming states of the far south. So long as the demand, as at present, exceeds the supply, and has no other resource than their own surplus, prices will be kept up at the present enormous figures, but let once the revival of the African trade render it easy to land unlimited cargoes in the Gulf of Mexico, and their golden goose is dead beyond all resuscitation. The party leaders of these states have partially lost sight of this fact of late, but the people have not, and the popular feeling at present in these localities is anything but favorable to the prosecution of further "*Wanderer*" enterprises.

Let fire eating politicians do their worst, nothing but the most reckless demagoguicism among northern statesmen, and the most utter forgetfulness of their own best interests among southern leaders can ever succeed in doing away with the strong and wholesome barrier which now

Strange Affair.

A gang of hard looking desperadoes, claiming to act under cover of legal authority, on Sunday evening last, arrested three negroes, supposed to be runaway slaves, who have for the last six months been at work near Clifton Iroquois County. The fugitives were put on the train at Ashkum, and they and their captors monopolized the smoking car. We are unable to discover that even the form of a trial was indulged in before these men were hurried off into bondage. The Fugitive Slave Law itself is bad enough in all conscience but this Sunday evening kidnaping is a great deal worse. It would be dangerous to try it in Champaign.

The Slave Trade Justified.

The following telegraphic despatch is important, and shows that South Carolina Grand Jurors refuse to aid in executing laws against the slave-trade :

CHARLESTON, May 16th.—The Grand Jury to day refused to make a presentment against Capt. Wm. C. Corrie, the principal owner of the yacht Wanderer, whose exploits in connection with a recent importation of Africans into Georgia have furnished so widely extended a theme of comment throughout the Union.

At Savannah, Georgia, six Grand Jurors publish an apology for finding a bill in a similar case, and declared their anxiety for the re-opening of the slave-trade, and that Southern legislators ought to unite for the accomplishment of this object.

The following paragraph looks in the same direction:

At a recent meeting of the Black Oak (S. C.) Agricultural Society, resolutions were adopted requesting the Legislature of South Carolina "to take such steps as will induce a change of the unconstitutional and iniquitous law of the United States forbidding the introduction of the negro from Africa into the Southern States." The preamble is, in substance, that the South is in great need of negro labor, and that the planter is the best missionary to the African.

The Southern Commercial Convention takes similar ground, and whatever may be the opinions of the more humane, patriotic and conservative classes at the South, the slave-traders have already secured a triumph in that quarter of the Union, by compelling those opposed to their views to remain silent and inactive, while they control nearly every organ of public opinion.

Central Illinois Gazette

May 30, 1860

Slave-Trading Made Easy. X

It is said that Judge Megrath of South Carolina, has ruled in the case of *Corrie*, of the *Wanderer*, that it is not piracy under the act of 1820 to transport Africans from Africa as slaves to this country, but that it must be proved that the prisoner kidnapped them. If Judge Megrath's view of the law be correct, there is no reason why the slave-trade should not be carried on from this moment as vigorously as it has ever been, because no slave-trader can ever have kidnapping proved against him. Others kidnap, and he is but a receiver. Moreover, if the Slave-trade be not piracy, the sooner it is made piracy the better. It is not a subject which we can afford to abstain from dealing with. Even if we did not owe it to our own dignity and honor, to let the world know what we think of the transportation of negroes to our shores by force, there are too many people interested in reviving the "accursed traffic" to leave us any room for hesitation. If we do not act they will.

Under Judge Megrath's ruling, Senator Wilson's new bill will be utterly useless; inasmuch as it provides cruisers to repress a trade which the Courts declare perfectly lawful.— We have reason to be thankful that this mine has been sprung before Congress adjourned. If the decision had been reserved till June, a lively business might have been done, and many fortunes made, before next January.—*N. Y. Times.*

Central Illinois Gazette

November 25, 1864

THE BLACK LAWS OF ILLINOIS.

The Chicago *Tribune* has a very sensible article recently demanding that the Legislature soon assemble, retrieve the honor of Illinois, by repealing the infamous code known among us as the "Black Laws." We entirely concur in the object and sentiment of the editorial referred to, and believe a like feeling common to every thinking and liberal man in Illinois. We do not ask their repeal because any one is interfered with in his rights by their operations, for many years have intervened since one could be found in our state so lost as to invoke their penalties upon any luckless son of Ham who might stray amongst us. We do, however, ask their repeal because of the *heathenish* spirit they breathe and because "they misrepresent our people before the world." We are neither a man selling nor a woman whipping people, nor do our laws and constitution tolerate human chattelism; then why allow statutes to survive the age of barbarism demanding them, which imply any of these crimes. These laws are useless rubbish and relics of a barbarism which years since entirely disappeared from our state and is now fast disappearing from our country. Shall we allow our sister states to outstrip us in our laws and institutions, when we so far outstrip them in all other features which go to make up a greater people and a great state?

The Insurrection at Harper's Ferry.

The bloody affair at Harper's Ferry during the past week has thrilled the entire South with spasmodic alarm. At the north, although no one has any cause for fear, the telegraphic announcement has awakened a general feeling of astonishment. It is a comment of peculiar significance upon the strength and security of social order under the "patriarchal institution" that an insane old man like John Brown aided by scarcely a baker's dozen of white men and a few runaway negroes can so shake with fear the very soul of the oldest and strongest of the slave states. Twenty cracked brained fanatics capture a town of six thousand inhabitants, seize a United States Armory, proclaim a "provisional government," and universal liberty to the servile population, and one would think from the commotion created that Chaos and Old Night had seized the earth for their own again.

If Brown was sane we should have no pity for his ill-fortune, in view of the enormity of his crime against society, but we cannot help remembering that the fire in his disordered brain was kindled by the ruffianly murder of his family by pro-slavery propagandists, and we pity him in spite of his errors. Poor old man! Transformed by the direct power of the institution he so hates from an honest prairie farmer, the head of a flourishing family, to a crazy fanatic, and now a childless father, wounded and in the hands of his enemies, having seen one son after another die before his eyes. He will doubtless

atone with his life for his treasonable undertaking, nor will any good citizen have any word to say against such a consummation of this mournful tragedy. It is well however to note distinctly the fact that from the earliest times until now blood and violence, political insecurity, and constantly recurring social disorders, have been the unfailling accompaniments of injustice, slavery, and oppression.

Governor Wise remarked of the old man, admiring his dauntless demeanor in his forlorn and hopeless condition, that "he was the gamest man he ever saw."

Thus far, both Brown's own declarations and the evidence produced by the examination go to establish beyond controversy that this enterprise originated in the brain of old 'Osawatamie' himself, and that no others in any portion of the country are implicated. His arms were mainly those left in his hands at the close of the Kansas difficulties, and his recruits, few in number and obscure in position, were the only men who had any part or lot in the matter.

Central Illinois Gazette

September 8, 1858

UNITED STATES.

A slaver, with over three hundred Congo negroes, has been taken by the U. S. brig Dolphin, and taken into the port of Charleston, South Carolina. The event has caused quite a sensation among the slavery propagandists; and those who are in favor of the opening of the slave trade are loud in their denunciation of the authorities, and even counsel violent measures for the retention of the cargo. The negroes are to be sent back to Africa.

Urbana Clarion

August 4, 1860

THE colored residents of Urbana and Champaign celebrated the anniversary of emancipation in the British West Indies, on Wednesday, by a pic-nic to the Sangamon. Quite a concourse of the race joined in the festivities of the day.

The Constitution

July 25, 1857

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Negro Equality

But three Republican journals in this State have refused to acquiesce in the ills of conferring upon the negro all the political, and as a consequence, all the social rights enjoyed by white men. All the others blindly advocate perfect negro equality, or do so impliedly by demanding the abrogation of our so-called "black laws." This is conclusive proof of the position of the Republican party.

We take the following extract from an article in that staunch Republican journal, the Bloomington Pantagraph. It speaks for itself:

"The Dred Scott decision has just declared that any one who has African blood in his veins, is not and cannot be a citizen of the United States, but does not the good sense of our people feel outraged by such a decision? Can the tinge of color on a man's skin debar him from the rights of a man under a government the first declaration of whose existence proclaims that all men are born free and equal, and that they have certain inalienable rights, among which are "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?" That decision is felt to be an insult to the genius of our government. We permit the emigrant, who has but recently stepped his foot upon our soil, to become a naturalized citizen—yea, we invite the thousands and millions of the oppressed and down trodden sons of Europe to come, to bring their little stores of capital and settle among us, to till our blooming prairies, to cut down our dense

forests, to take their places at the loom and the anvil, to dig our canals and build our cities and railroads; to their children we throw open our schools, and to themselves we accord all the privileges of citizenship.

"This is the liberal policy of the greatest nation in the world; but under this decision
* * * **our respectable, quiet, orderly, tax paying colored people in the free States, who were born here, whose labors have been expended here, and whose ancestors, in some cases, served with honor in the revolutionary struggle, may not have the rights of men, the privilege of suffrage; they must pay tax but not vote. Here we have taxation without representation, the great wrong which the revolution righted.**

"Another point: every negro slave at the south is counted as three fifths of a man in counting for representation in our Legislative halls at Washington. Why, then, not grant a free negro greater notice in our government; yea, why shall we not grant them all rights as a man?"

"We expect the Republican party to come out boldly on this point, and not to be scared out of their position by cries of "Niggerism," which only amounts to this: that the only reason why a man of African descent should not vote, is because his skin is a few shades darker than yours or mine, or that of Hans, the German, or Pat, the Irishman."

Such being "their position," it is not strange that many who have heretofore acted with that party avow their determination to sever their connection with it. One, at least, of those placed in high official position by the Republican party of this section of the State, unhesitatingly expresses the determination to act henceforth with the De-

Illinois a Slave State.

Illinois is a slave State. Slavery real African slavery—exists there, by law, to a certain extent, notwithstanding the general opinion which classifies Illinois in the category of free States. A slave, a chattel, a thing of flesh and blood, a human being animated by a soul, a man—was to have been publicly sold on the block, in the city of Belleville, in the county of St. Clair, by a Magistrate of said county, last Saturday—notice of the sale having been duly published in the papers, accompanied by one of those pictures of a runaway slave with a bundle on his back which constantly adorn the Journals of Mississippi to the indiscriminate anguish of sensitive and sympathetic Abolitionists. The name of the unlucky negro was Jackson Redman, color, mulatto; offence, being in the State without license; length of time for for which he was to have sold, until he earns for his master the sum of fifty dollars, that being the amount of his indebtedness to the state of Illinois.

We fear that the philanthropists of the North, in searching for a field for the exercise of their humanity, have not done justice to the claims of Illinois. There is not quite as much slavery in the "Sucker State" as there is in Missouri or Mississippi; but still there is enough to make it a "slave cursed" region, and if charity did not generally begin away from home the evil would long since have attracted more attention than it has.—*St. Louis News.*

Central Illinois Gazette

February 16, 1859

The Clergy and the Slavery Question.

Most of our readers are aware that the "delicate relations of master and slave" have been somewhat under discussion in the pulpit of West Urbana for some time past. We much regret that we have not full reports of all the discourses.

On Sabbath evening last, according to appointment, the Rev. S. A. Vandyke delivered a discourse on the subject "Is the relation of master and slave sinful." Mr. Vandyke supported the affirmative of this question in a very able manner. We are unable in our limited space to recall all the points set forth, but we would especially notice his treatment of the ordinary Bible argument in favor of slavery. The proposition so often brought forward that "the Bible regulates slavery" was shown to be utterly without foundation in fact. The term itself occurs but twice in the ordinary English version, and in both cases is a mistranslation of the word, in the original. No instance occurs in the Bible of one person selling a second to a third, except in the case of Joseph, a case from which men stealers can derive but little comfort. Instances of men selling their own *time* are not in point and have nothing to do with the question. The fact that the Savior and his apostles so strongly condemned oppression and injustice in every form is conclusive evidence as to what their voice would be in regard to so iniquitous a system as that of American Slavery, that system which John Wesley so vehemently denominated "the sum of all villainy." Mr. Vandyke concluded by urging that if the sentiments of the people of the north were unitedly *right* on this subject, its duration in the present slave states would be speedily limited.

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In the mean time it will not do to underrate the vast moneyed and political influence which is being brought to bear in behalf of the new movement. They have extended their operations even to Great Britain itself, where a party has been formed of no inconsiderable strength with a view to do away with the present British interference and withdraw from the coast of Africa the only squadron whose efficiency has been such as to oppose any serious hinderance to the growth and successful prosecution of the trade. They have established an organ in London called "The London Cotton Plant: A Journal of Tropical Civilization," and are pressing the war vigorously.

This question of the revival of the African Slave Trade will meet the political leaders of all parties, in various shapes, at every turn, during the next presidential campaign, and we should feel satisfied if we were as certain of the strength and fidelity of its opponents as we are of the zeal and activity of its supporters.

Central Illinois Gazette
July 18, 1860

“The Hickory Boy.”

This new paper, or rather the Urbana *Clarion* metamorphosed, made its first appearance on the 7th inst. Its drapery and general appearance is much the same as heretofore. In politics it is of the most radical Douglas type. The very first article on the first page and first column, clipped from the Quincy *Herald*, is an effort to prove that the Republican party is in favor of Negro Equality. Also the first editorial is headed *Negro Equality*. Well Bro. Jaquith if you think there is no *Hell* why go ahead.

However we have always understood Bro. Jaquith to claim to be an honest member of the Methodist church, and a true believer in the Bible. We would therefore commend to his serious consideration a few passages from that old volume, which we fear he has not been in the habit of reading.

“And behold, I come quickly and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. For without are dogs &c., idolators, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. Rev., chap. 22d, verses 12 and 15.

And all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone,” chap. 21 verse 8.

Central Illinois Gazette

October 24, 1860

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The Republican party has from the beginning earnestly disclaimed all connection with the ideas, principles, or intentions, of the ultra anti-slavery men of the north, the Simon Pure Abolitionists, and their opponents have vainly labored to fasten the name upon them. The fact is that no men have so belabored the Republicans with bitter words, or showed so strong an enmity to their organization, as have these same Abolitionists. In New York, Ohio, and Illinois, they have nominated separate political tickets. This suits us "to a dot,"—we desire the support of no man who is so unreasonable as to go further than the platform of the Republican Party.

SPEECH BY REV. MR. GODFREY.—The two Republican Clubs of Champaign City united on Monday evening last to listen to an address from the Rev. Mr. Godfrey. Cloke's Hall was filled to overflowing, in spite of the extreme heat, a large part of the audience being ladies. Mr. Godfrey is a clear and forcible speaker, well posted in our political history, and well able to expose the fallacies and corruptions of sham Democracy. The speech consisted of a slicing review of the past history compared with the present position of the Democratic party. The thin partition between the Douglas and Breckinridge wings was ruthlessly torn aside, and the essential pro-slavery character of each exposed to the indignation of the audience. The miserable sham that has received the title of Squatter Sovereignty never looked more empty and flimsy. There was a vein of wit and humor pervading the entire address, frequently calling forth roars of laughter and enthusiastic applause. Mr. Godfrey began by requesting the indulgence of his audience on the ground that he was making his first political speech, but no apologies were necessary, and we hope that this is not by any means his last appearance upon the stump, if it is his first. There is no doubt whatever in our mind that those Democrats who listened to him, if their hardened hearts still resist conviction as to the fundamental error of their position, went away more inclined than ever to oppose any interference in political matters on the part of the clergy.—We cannot blame them, it is too bad to be utterly used up by *any* body. When Mr. Godfrey preaches again from a Republican text we propose being on hand with as many Democrats as we can coax to accompany us.

Central Illinois Gazette

September 5, 1860

Slavery and the Bible. X

We have been surprised to find that not only at the far south, but even in the southern part of this state, and among a few of the Democrats in this vicinity, the exploded idea that the Bible sanctions American slavery still retains a leading position. At some future time we may feel called upon to give minutely and at length the true doctrine on this point, but at present we are compelled to leave the subject with a few observations. First, the Bible nowhere speaks approvingly, in a moral point view, of even the limited servitude which existed among the ancient Hebrews, mentioning it only to restrict it.— Secondly, the institution which existed among the Hebrews was far different from, and bore no earthly relation to, the system of human slavery which now disgraces our southern states; thirdly, while it is undeniable that absolute human bondage, or slavery, has existed from the earliest times, the Bible nowhere uses the term *slave* except in one place and there only in terms of the most vehement reprobation, while describing the abominations of Babylon, 18th chapter, 13th verse. It seems impossible for the same men to comprehend the difference between the terms "slave" and "servant," and it is at this point by a confusion of ideas, that the great error is made.

Negro Equality

But three Republican journals in this State have refused to acquiesce in the ills of conferring upon the negro all the political, and as a consequence, all the social rights enjoyed by the white men. All the others blindly advocate perfect negro equality, or do so impliedly by demanding the abrogation of our so-called "black laws." This is conclusive proof of the position of the Republican party.

We take the following extract from an article in that staunch Republican Journal, the *Bloomington Pantagraph*. It speaks for itself:

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--*N.Y. Times*

Slavery and the Bible

We have been surprised to find that not only at the far south, but even in the southern part of this state, and among a few of the Democrats in this vicinity, the exploded idea that the Bible sanctions American slavery still retains a leading position. At some future time we may feel called upon to give minutely and at length the true doctrine on this point, but at present we are compelled to leave the subject with a few observations. First, the Bible nowhere speaks approvingly in a moral point view, of even the limited servitude which existed among the ancient Hebrews, mentioning it only to restrict it.— Secondly, the institution which existed among the Hebrews was far different from, and bore no earthly relation to, the system of human slavery which now disgraces our southern states; thirdly while it is undeniable that absolute human bondage, or slavery has existed from the earliest times, the Bible nowhere uses the term slave except in one place and there only in terms of the most vehement reprobation, while describing the abominations of Babylon, 18th chapter, 13th verse. It seems impossible for the same men to comprehend the difference between the terms “slave” and “servant” and it is at this point, by a confusion of ideas, that the great error is made.

A slaver, with over three hundred Congo negroes, has been taken by the U.S. brig Dolphin and taken into the port of Charleston, South Carolina. The event has caused quite a sensation among the slavery propagandists; and those who are in favor of the opening of the slave trade are loud in their denunciation of the authorities, and even counsel violent measures for the retention of the cargo. The negroes are to be sent back to Africa.

Central Illinois Gazette. September 8, 1958.

SPEECH BY REV. MR GODFREY—The two Republican Clubs of Champaign City united on Monday evening last to listen to an address from the Rev. Mr. Godfrey. Cloke's Hall was filled to overflowing, in spite of the extreme heat, a large part of the audience being ladies. Mr. Godfrey is a clear and forcible speaker, well posted in our political history, and well able to expose the fallacies and corruptions of sham Democracy. The speech consisted of a slicing review of the past history compared with the present position of the Democratic party. The thin partition between the Douglas and Breckenridge wings was ruthlessly torn aside, and the essential pro-slavery character of each exposed to the indignation of the audience. The miserable sham that has received the title of Squatter Sovereignty never looked more empty and flimsy. There was a vein of wit and humor pervading the entire address, frequently calling forth roars of laughter and enthusiastic applause. Mr. Godfrey began by requesting the indulgence of his audience on the ground that he was making his first political speech, but no apologies were necessary, and we hope that this is not by any means his last appearance upon the stump, if it is his first. There is not doubt whatever in our mind that those Democrats who listened to him, if their hardened hearts still resist conviction as to the fundamental error of their position, went away more inclined than ever to oppose any interference in political matters on the part of the clergy—We cannot blame them, it is too bad to be utterly used up by *any* body. When Mr. Godfrey preaches again from a Republican Text we proposed being on hand with as many Democrats as we can coax to accompany us.

Central Illinois Gazette

July 4, 1860

Strange Affair

A gang of hard looking desperadoes, claiming to act under cover of legal authority, on Sunday evening last, arrested three negroes, supposed to be runaway slaves, who have for the last six months been at work near Clifton Iroquois County. The fugitives were put on the train at Ashkum, and they and their captors monopolized the smoking car. We are unable to discover that even the form of a trial was indulged in before these men were hurried off into bondage. The Fugitive Slave Law itself is bad enough in all conscience but this Sunday evening kidnapping is a great deal worse. It would be dangerous to try it in Champaign.

THE BLACK LAWS OF ILLINOIS

The Chicago *Tribune* has a very sensible article recently demanding that the Legislature ?? to assemble, retrieve the honor of Illinois, by repealing the infamous code known among us as the Black Laws. We strictly concur in the object and sentiment of the editorial referred to, and believe a like feeling common to every thinking and liberal man in Illinois. We do not ask their repeal because any one is interfered with in his rights by their operations, for many years have intervened since one could be found in our state so lost as to invoke their penalties upon any luckless son of Ham who might stray amongst us. We do, however, ask their repeal because of the *heathenish* spirit they breathe and because they misrepresent our people before the world. We are neither a man selling nor a woman whipping people, nor do our laws and constitution tolerate human chattelism; then why allow statutes to survive the age of barbarism demanding them, which imply any of these crimes, These laws are useless rubbish and relics of a barbarism which years since entirely disappeared from our state and is now fast disappearing from our country. Shall we allow our sister states to outstrip us in our laws and institutions, when we so far outstrip them in all other features which go to make up a greater people and a great state?

The Clergy and the Slavery Question

Most of our readers are aware that the delicate relations of master and slave have been somewhat under discussion in the pulpit of West Urbana for some time past. We much regret that we have not full reports of all the discourses.

On Sabbath evening last according to appointment, the Rev. S. A. Vandyke delivered a discourse on the subject "Is the relation of master and slave sinful." Mr. Vandyke supported the affirmative of this question in a very able manner. We are unable in our limited space to recall the points set forth, but we would especially notice his treatment of the ordinary Bible argument in favor of slavery. The proposition so often brought forward that "the Bible regulates slavery" was shown to be utterly without foundation in fact. The term itself occurs but twice in the ordinary English version, and in both cases is a mistranslation of the word, in the original. No instance occurs in the Bible of one person selling a second to a third, except in the case of Joseph, a case from which men stealers can derive but little comfort. Instances of men selling their own time are not in point and have nothing to do with the question. The fact that the Savior and his apostles so strongly condemned oppression and injustice in every form is conclusive evidence as to what their voice would be in regard to so iniquitous a system as that of American Slavery, that system which Joh Wesley so vehemently denominated the sum of all villany." Mr. Vandyke concluded by urging that if the sentiments of the people of the north were unitedly right on this subject, its duration in the present slave states would be speedily limited.

The Constitution
May 9, 1857

Illinois a Slave State

Illinois is a Slave State. Slavery real African slavery—exists there, by law, to certain extent, notwithstanding the general opinion which classifies Illinois in the category of free States. A slave, a chattel, a thing of flesh and blood, a human being animated by a soul, a *man*, was to have been publicly sold on the block, in the city of Belleville, in the county of St. Clair, by a Magistrate of said county, last Saturday—notice of the sale having been duly published in the papers, accompanied by one of those pictures of a runaway slave with a bundle on his back which constantly adorn the Journals of Mississippi to the indescribable anguish of sensitive and sympathetic Abolitionists. The name of the unlucky negro was Jackson Redman, color, mulatto; offence, being in the State without license; length of time for which he was to have sold, until he earns for his master the sum of fifty dollars, that being the amount of his indebtedness to the state of Illinois.

We fear that the philanthropists of the North, in searching for a field for the exercise of their humanity, have not done justice to the claims of Illinois. There is not quite as much slavery in the “Sucker State” as there is in Missouri or Mississippi; but still there is enough to make it a “slave cursed region, and if charity did not generally begin away from home the evil would long have since attracted more attention than it has.—St. Louis News

“The Hickory Boy”

This new paper, or rather the Urbana Clarion metamorphosed, made its first appearance on the 7th inst. Its drapery and general appearance is much the same as heretofore. In politics it is of the most radical Douglas type. The very first article on the first page and first column, clipped from the Quincy Herald, is an effort to prove that the Republican party is in favor of Negro Equality. Also the first editorial is headed *Negro Equality*. Well Bro. Jaquith if you think there is no *Hell* why go ahead.

However we have always understood Bro. Jaquith to claim to be an honest member of the Methodist church, and a true believer in the Bible. We would therefore commend to his serious consideration a few passages from that old volume, which we he has not been in the habit of reading.

“And behold I come quickly and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. For without are dogs and c. idolators, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. Rev. chap 22d. verses 12 and 15.

And all liars shall have their part in the Lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.”
Chap. 21 verse 8.

The Insurrection at Harper's Ferry

The bloody affair at Harper's Ferry during the past week has thrilled the entire South with spasmodic alarm. At the north, although no one has any cause for fear, the telegraphic announcement has awakened a general feeling of astonishment. It is a comment of peculiar significance upon the strength and security of social order under the "patriarchal institution" that an insane old man like John Brown aided by scarcely a baker's dozen of white men and a few runaway negroes can so shake with fear the very soul of the oldest and strongest of the slave states. Twenty cracked brained fanatics capture a town of six thousand inhabitants, seize a United States Armory, proclaim a "provisional government," and universal liberty to the servile population, and one would think from the commotion created that Chaos and Old Night had seized the earth for their own gain.

If Brown was sane we should have no pity for his ill-fortune, in view of the enormity of his crime against society, but we cannot help remembering that the fire in his disordered brain was kindled by the ruffianly murder of his family by pro-slavery propagandists, and we pity him in spite of his errors. Poor old man! Transformed by the direct power of the institution he so hates from an honest prairie farmer, the head of a flourishing family, to a crazy fanatic, and now a childless father, wounded and in the hands of his enemies, having seen one after another die before his eyes. He will doubtless atone with his life for his treasonable undertaking, nor will any good citizen have any word to say against such a consummation of this mournful tragedy. It is well however to note distinctly the fact that from the earliest times until now until blood and violence, political insecurity, and constantly recurring social disorders, have been the unflinching accompaniments of injustice, slavery, and oppression.

Governor Wise remarked of the old man, admiring his dauntless demeanor in his forlorn and hopeless condition, that he was the gamest man he ever saw."

Thus far, both Brown's own declarations and the evidence produced by the examination go to establish beyond controversy that this enterprise originated in the brain of old Osawatamie himself, and that no others in any portion of the country are implicated. His arms were mainly those left in his hands at the close of the Kansas difficulties, and his recruits, few in number and obscure in position, were the only men who had any part or lot in the matter.

THE SLAVE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES-No little interest is manifested as to the matter of the increase or decrease of slave population in the several states since 1850. The value of slaves has been so high, and their labor has been so profitable during this period that their life and health has been very carefully guarded, while the greatest encouragement and protection has been given to the natural increase. Under these circumstances it is reasonable to look for a larger percentage of increase than as any former decennial period since the prohibition of the African slave trade.

By the census of 1850, the aggregate number of slaves in the United States was 3,207,313. Of this number, 249,636 were of mixed blood, mulattoes etc---- The free black and mulatto population Was 434,595 in the following proportion; Blacks: 275,000: mulattoes, 159,095.

The entire white population by the Same census was 19, 553, 068. The aggregate was as follows: Whites; 19, 558, 068; slaves, 3,204,314; free blacks and colored, 434,493. Total, 23, 191, 576.

The Slave Trade Justified

The following telegraphic dispatch is important and shows that South Carolina Grand Jurors refuse to aid in executing laws against the Slave trade.:

CHARLESTON: May 16th, --The Grand Jury today refuse to make presentment against Capt. Wm. C. Corrie, the principal owner

The Slave Trade Movement

It is now a matter of notoriety from one end of the country to the other that the prophecies concerning the revival of the slave trade, so often made by leading statesmen of all parties during the last few years, are in rapid course of fulfillment. Not only has the American African Squadron sustained at vast expense for the purpose of suppressing the infamous traffic become year by year more and more of a farce and a humbug, serving at the present hour more as a protection than a preventive, but public opinion among a large class of southern politicians, has changed to such a degree that their leaders and their party organs have the effrontery to openly *demand* the restoration of the slave trade, and the brazen impudence to argue its righteousness.

Nor can any candid man, no matter what may be his political bias, fail to perceive that the national executive has been culpably negligent of its duties in the premises, and willfully blind to operations carried on openly under its very eyes. The public generally are hardly aware of the extent of the commerce in human flesh now carried on between the island of Cuba and the coast of Africa. It has become a regular thing, and the proportion of cargoes lost by capture, either by English, French or American cruisers, is lamentably small. The English government is the only one which has really done its duty, and we are compelled to look to English sources for almost all of our reliable information. From them we learn that the trade is carried on almost altogether in small and swift vessels the property of American owners, but mainly officered and manned by Spaniards. The facility with which these vessels can be fitted out in our won ports and under the eyes of the servants of our government is a source of shame and regret to all those who respect the laws.

The recent triumphant success of Captain Corrie and his yacht *Wanderer*, known to be a Slave before he ever left our coast, boasting openly in Washington society of his intended attempt; known by the whole American squadron to be taking in his cargo in the Congo river while they were cruising off the mouth of it; allowed to slip through their very midst and to cross the ocean unmolested, and finally to land his slaves not on the coast of Cuba, but upon our own mainland, a few miles below Savannah in the State of Georgia, and then depart again unmolested, no one knows whither; this affair, we say, brings the matter to a crisis—

When such deeds are possible there is an evident rottenness *somewhere*—where it is not difficult to determine.

The southern papers in their defence of the slave trade attempt to throw back upon the enemies of the peculiar institution one of their own arrows. “If say they, the foreign slave trade is infamous and criminal, worthy of being stigmatised as piratical and punished with the utmost rigor of the law, the domestic slave trade between the states must sooner or later fall under the same ban of prohibition, they must stand and fall together.”

We gladly admit the truth of this argument, abstractly considered, and file it away for future reference, thanking the True Delt and the Richmond South for furnishing us with so potent a weapon. There is one view of this portion of the case however which is not always made clear to northern readers. We do not do justice to the South when we speak of it as being unanimously in favor of the slave trade; it is very far from being the case. Not only are there many patriotic and fariseeing men who, taking an enlarged and truly *national* view of the case, oppose it on ground of right or of wisdom, but there are slave states against who direct pecuniary interests a revival of the slave trade would militate strongly. These are slave producing states of the Atlantic coast, as distinguished from the slave consuming states of the far south. So long as the demand, as at present, exceeds the supply, and has no other resource other than their own surplus, prices will be kept up at the present enormous figures, but let once the revival of the African trade render it easy to land unlimited cargoes in the Gulf of Mexico, and their golden goose is dead beyond all rescuscitation. The party leaders of these states have partially lost sight of this fact of late, but the people have not, and the popular feeling at present in these localities is anything but favorable to the prosecution of further “*Wanderer*” enterprises.

Let fire eating politicians do their worst, Nothing but the most reckless demagogueism among northern statesmen, an the most utter forgetfulness of their own best interests among southern leaders can ever succeed in doing away with the strong and wholesome barrier which now prevents us from taking so fearful a retrograde step towards barbarism.

In the mean time it will not do to underrate The vast moneyed and political influence which is being brought to bear in behalf of the new movement. They have extended their operations

even to Great Britain itself, where a party has been formed of no inconsiderable strength with a view to do away with the present British interference and withdraw from the coast of Africa the only squadron whose efficiency has been such as to oppose an serious hinderance to the growth and successful prosecution of the trade. They have established an organ in London called "The London Cotton Plant: A Journal of Tropical Civilization," and are pressing the war vigorously.

This question of the revival of the African Slave Trade will meet the political leaders of all parties, in various shapes, at every turn, during the next presidential campaign, and We should feel satisfied if we were as certain of The strength and fidelity of its opponents as we Are of the zeal and activity of its supporters.

Central Illinois Gazette January 5, 1859

Urbana Clarion
August 4, 1860

The colored residents of Urbana and Champaign celebrated the anniversary of emancipation in the British West Indies, on Wednesday, by a pic-nic to the Sangamon. Quite a concourse of the race joined in the festivities of the day.

THE SLAVE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.—No little interest is manifested as to the matter of the increase or decrease of slave population in the several states since 1850. The value of slaves has been so high, and their labor has been so profitable during this period that their life and health has been very carefully guarded, while the greatest encouragement and protection has been given to the natural increase. Under these circumstances it is reasonable to look for a larger per centage of increase than at any former decennial period since the prohibition of the African slave trade.

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