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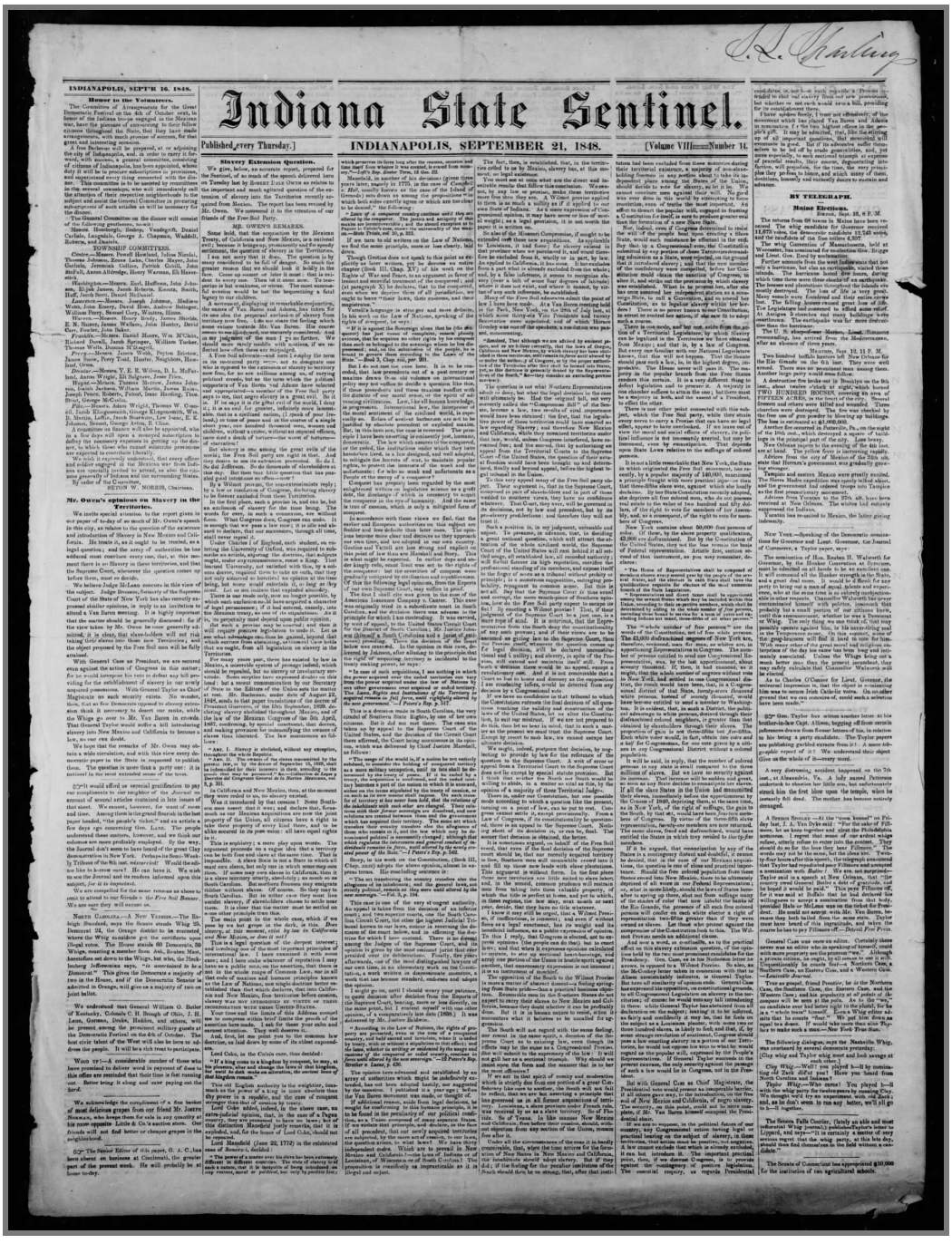

Indiana State Sentinel.

INDIANAPOLIS, SEPTEMBER 21, 1848. [Volume VIII—Number 14

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INDIANAPOLIS, SEPTM 16, 1848.

Honor to the Volunteers.

The Committee of Arrangements for the Great Democratic Festival on the 4th of October next, in honor of the Indiana troops engaged in the Mexican war, have the pleasure of announcing to their fellow citizens throughout the State, that they have made arrangements, with much promise of success, for that great and interesting occasion.

A free Barbecue will be prepared, at or adjoining the city of Indianapolis, and, in order to carry it forward, with success, a general committee, consisting of one member from each township in the county, and duly it will be to procure subscriptions to provisions, and superintend every thing connected with the dinner. This committee is to be assisted by committees in the several townships, who will immediately call the attention of their respective neighborhoods to the subject and assist the General Committee in procuring subscriptions of such articles as will be necessary for the dinner.

The General Committee on the dinner will consist of the following gentlemen, to-wit:

Hiram Hemingway, Embree Vandegrift, Daniel Carlisle, Laugdale, George A. Chapman, Waddell, Roberts, and Wilson.

MUSICIAN COMMITTEES.

Centre—Messrs. Powell Bramwell, Nathan Dole, Thomas Johnson, Enos Lake, Charles Mayer, John Corbin, Jeremiah Collins, Patrick Cahill, John Sefull, Aaron Aldredge, Henry Warman, Eli Hunt—etick.

Washington—Messrs. Erel, Huffman, John Johnson, Elijah James, Jacob Roberts, Kounts, Smith, Huff, Jacob Dorel, Daniel Hollowell.

Lawrence—Messrs. Joseph Johnson, Madison Wade, John Emery, David Hess, Andrew Salinger, William Perry, Stewart Cory, Winters, Hines.

Warren—Messrs. Henry Brady, Thomas Shields, E. R. Sharer, James Wallace, John Hunt, Abraham Hunt, Jacob Hunt.

Franklin—Messrs. Daniel Moore, Wm. M'Cain, Richard Dorsell, Jacob Springer, William Tucker, Thomas Wells, Duncan M'Dargell.

Perry—Messrs. James Wells, Peyton Bristow, James Snow, Perry Todd, Hunter, Neighbors, Howland, Owens.

Decatur—Messrs. Y. E. E. Wilson, D. L. M'Farland, Aaron Wright, Eli Saligner, Jesse Tree.

Hygar—Messrs. Thomas Morrow, James Johnson, Isaiah Jackson, William Martin, Jarvis Rains, Joseph Thompson, Patrick, Isaac Harding, Thos Steele, George M'Coll.

Pike—Messrs. Adam Wright, Thomas W. Connell, Jacob Klingensmith, George Klingensmith, Wm. B. Martin, Leffler, Jacob Sparwine, Lee Isaac, E. E. Johnson, Bennett, George Acton, E. Cline.

A committee on finance will also be appointed, who in a few days will open a sweeping subscription to defray the necessary expenses in getting up the dinner, to which those who cannot subscribe provisions are expected to contribute liberally.

We wish it especially understood, that every officer and soldier engaged in the Mexican war from Indiana, and every citizen of Indiana who has served in the army of Indiana and the surrounding States.

By order of the Committee.

ELTON W. NORRIS, Chairman.

Mr. Owen's opinions on Slavery in the Territories.

We invite special attention to the report given in our paper of to-day of so much of Mr. Owen's speech in this city, as relates to the question of the existence and introduction of Slavery in New Mexico and California. He treats it, as it ought to be treated, as a legal question; and the army of authorities he has adduced must convince every one, that, at this moment there is no Slavery in these territories, and that the Supreme Court, wherever the question comes up before them, must so decide.

We believe Judge M'Lean concurs in this view of the subject. Judge Brinson, formerly of the Supreme Court of the State of New York has also recently expressed similar opinions, in reply to an invitation to attend a Van Buren meeting. It is highly important that the matter should be generally discussed: for if the view taken by Mr. Owen be once generally admitted, it is clear, that slave-holders will not risk taking their slaves into those new Territories; and the object proposed by the Free Soil men will be fully attained.

With General Cass as President, we are secured even against the action of Congress in this matter; for he would interpose his veto to defeat any bill providing for the establishment of slavery in our newly acquired possessions. With General Taylor as Chief Magistrate no such security exists. No wonder, then, that so few Democrats opposed to slavery extension think it necessary to desert our ranks, while the Whigs go over to Mr. Van Buren in crowds. That General Taylor would suffer a bill introducing slavery into New Mexico and California to become a law, no one can doubt.

We hope that the remarks of Mr. Owen may obtain a wide circulation, and with this view every democratic paper in the State is requested to publish them. The question is more than a party one: it is national in the most extended sense of the term.

☞It would afford us especial gratification to pay our compliments to our neighbor of the *Journal* on account of several articles contained in late issues of that sheet. We cannot, however, for want of room and time. Among these is the grand flourish in the last paper headed, "the people's ticket," and an article a few days ago concerning Gen. Lane. The people understand these matters, however, and we think our columns are more profitably employed. By the way, the Journal don't seem to have heard of the great Clay demonstration in New York. Perhaps its friend Wash by Tribune of the 9th, not *miscarried*! Would the editor like to know one? He can have it. We wish to see the Journal and its readers informed upon this subject, *for it is important*.

We are compelled for the same reason as above to omit to attend to our friends « the *Free Soil Banner*. We are sure they will excuse us.

NORTH CAROLINA.—A NEW VENDER.—The Raleigh Standard, says the Senate stands Whig 28, Democrat 24, the Orange district to be counted, where the Whig candidate got the certificate upon illegal votes. The House stands 60 Democrats, 59 Whigs, counting a member from Ash, Reuben Mast, heretofore set down in the Whigs, but who, the Hendersonville Gleaner says, "is ascertained to be a Democrat." This gives the Democrats a majority of two in the House, and if the Democratic Senator is admitted in Orange, will give us a majority of two on joint ballot.

We understand that General William O. Butler of Kentucky, Colonels C. B. Brough of Ohio, J. H. Lane, Gorman, Drake, Haddon, and others will be present among the provincial military guests at the Democratic Festival on the 4th of October. The last civic talent of the West will also be here to adorn the people. It will be a rich treat to participate.

WHOA THERE!—A considerable number of those who have promised to deliver wood in payment of dues to this office are reminded that their time is fast running out. Better stop it short and save paying out the *hard*.

We acknowledge the compliment of a fine basket of most delicious grapes from our friend Mr. James Noonan, who keeps them for sale in any quantity at his now opposite Little & Co's auction store. Our friends will not find better or cheaper grapes in the neighborhood.

☞The Senior Editor of this paper, G. A. C., has been absent on business at Cincinnati, the greater part of the present week. He will probably be at home to-day.

Slavery Extension Question.

We give below, reduced by that eminent compositor, the Sentinel, of so much of the speech delivered here on Monday night by Senator LEWIS OWEN as relates to the important and much agitated question of the extension of slavery into the Territories recently acquired from Mexico. The report has been revised by Mr. Owen. We commend it to the attention of our friends of the Free Soil Party.

MR. OWEN'S REMARKS.

Some hold, that the acquisition by the Mexican Treaty, of California and New Mexico, as a national evil; because it brings, prominently before us, the question of settlement, the question of slavery in the Territories.

I am not sorry that it does. The question is by many considered to be full of danger. So much the greater reason that we should look it boldly in the face. Come up sooner or later it must: that is evident. The sooner it is met, the more easy it will be to compromise it: but weakness, or even the most momentary evasion would be but the beginning a fatal legacy to our children.

A movement, displaying in remarkable conjuncture, the names of Van Buren and Adams, has taken for its one idea the perpetual exclusion of slavery from territory not free. I do not share the feeling which some evince towards Mr. Van Buren. His course seems to me judicious; nor necessarily confined to, or by judgment of the man I go no further. We should have acted nearly with a view of it, we referred how—for these are principles.

But I do not see why we should not employ the term in its received sense, never, and to designate one who is opposed to the extension or slavery to territory free, for he no more millions among us, of varying political creeds, but as the term which the political superiors of Van Buren, and Adams have selected and appropriated—a member of the Free Soil party says to me, that any slavery is a great evil. So I am. If to say it is the great evil of the world, I deny it; it is an evil for greater, infinitely more lamentable, that in a civilized nation, (I speak of your friends,) there should be found a single man or woman, a single one, who can wander in the streets of our cities, children, without a crust, without an imputed offense, save dark shade of incurable want of subsistence of starvation!

But slavery is one among the great evils of the world; the Free Soil party are right in that. And they desire to see its existence circumscribed. So do I. So did Jefferson. So do thousands of slaveholders at this day. But then how little opinion that has produced good intentions so often—not?

By a Wilmot proviso, by a constitutional reply; by a law or resolution of Congress, declaring slavery to be forever excluded from these Territories?

In the first place, such a law or resolution can be, in an enlightened country for the time being. The words for ever, in such a connection, are without force. What Congress does, Congress can undo. It is enough that we pass a law now; it is of no sort to declare, that our successors, through all time, shall never repeal it.

Under Charles I of England, such student, on entering the University of Oxford, was required to subscribe an article, abjuring the doctrine, that subjects might, under any circumstances, resist a King. But the learned University, not satisfied with this, by a solemn decree, required them to take an oath, that they not only submitted to tyrants; an opinion at the time of the most servile character, but to act as they acted. Let us see instances but equally absurd already.

There is one mode only, now no longer possible, by which such exclusion could be organized a character of legal permanence; if it had entered, namely, into the Mexican treaty, so that it was acquiescence. As it is, its perpetuity must depend upon public opinion.

But such a provision was to be inserted; and then it will require positive legislation to undo it. Let us see what advantage can thus be gained, beyond that which accrues from silencing, as it were, the hostile feelings which, from all legislation on slavery in the Territories.

For many years past, there has existed by law in Mexico, a miserable system of peonage; indeed, which should be repealed, but no slavery or involuntary servitude. Some writers have expressed doubts on this head: but a recent communication by our Secretary of State to the Minister of the United States at Mexico, at rest. Mr. Buchanan, under date of August 23, 1848, sends to that paper translations of the decree of President Guerrero, of the 25th September, 1829, declaring slavery abolished throughout Mexico, and of the law of the Mexican Congress of the 5th April, 1837, declaring, from all legislation on slavery in the Territories.

"Art. I. Slavery is abolished, without any exception, throughout the whole Republic.

"Art. II. The owners of the slaves emancipated by the present law, or by the decree of September 15, 1829, shall be indemnified for their interest in them, according to the provisions which shall be established by a special law. [*Decreto del Congreso General de la Nacion Mexicana, num.* 5, p. 31.

In California and New Mexico, then, at the moment they were ceded to us, no slavery existed.

Was it introduced by that cession? Some Southern men assert that it was; and declare that, forsaken as our Southern men assert that it was; and declare that, forsaken as our Southern men assert that it was; and declare that, forsaken as our