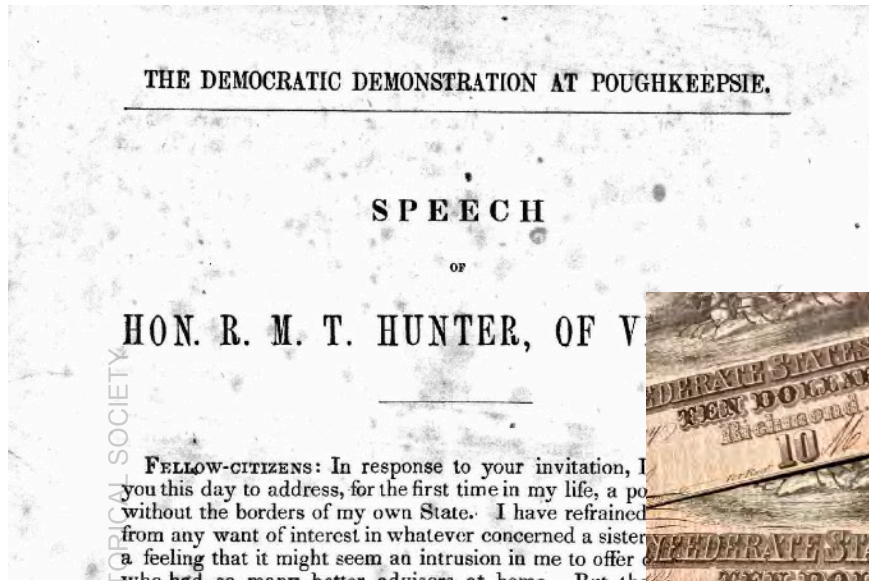


Virginia Senator Robert Hunter was among speakers at a mass rally in Poughkeepsie in October 1856

Hunter's speech in Poughkeepsie on October 2, 1856, with some reports estimating the audience size at 100,000, became nationally prominent and was published separately as well as in newspapers at the time.



Hunter appeared on the \$10 bill of the Confederate States of America.



Hunter was a US Congressman, US Speaker of the US House of Representatives, and US Senator prior to becoming the Secretary of State of the Confederat States of America. His portrait was removed in June of 2020.

The Great Demonstration at Poughkeepsie.

Yesterday the great demonstration of the democracy of the ocean and river counties of this State came off at Poughkeepsie. The unfavorable weather of the preceding day was such as to deter those at a distance from making as extensive preparations for participating in the affair as they otherwise would have done. It was, however, completely successful in regard to numbers, and was undoubtedly one of the largest assemblages ever witnessed in this State. Brooklyn did herself honor. Her delegation was the most numerous from any point except New York city. Three steamers had been engaged: the Metropolitan by the 11th Ward Buchanan Club, the Worcester and John Hart by the Union Central Democratic Club, and Kings County Buchanan Association.

Many Brooklynites had gone up on Tuesday evening. A meeting was held on Tuesday night in the City Hall of Poughkeepsie by the Buchanan Club of the city, and speeches were made by Judge NELSON of Dutchess County, Mr. KEYTON a promising young lawyer, Judge MOOROF of Brooklyn, and several others.

From the early morning yesterday Poughkeepsie was all animation. Across Main street, through which the procession was to pass, was an arch of evergreens and a banner bearing this inscription: "Welcome, friends of the Union." From eleven o'clock the delegations from different parts of Dutchess and the adjoining counties poured in; and boat after boat approached the wharf with their freight of Democracy and gaily decorated with national flags and appropriate mottoes and devices. The banner of the 11th Ward Club of Brooklyn was conspicuous and highly admired, and the 10th Ward portrait of Judge VANDERBILT was lustily cheered. In fact the Brooklyn delegation was worthy of Kings County.

A cannon was stationed on an eminence above the wharf and pealed forth a welcome as each boat hove in sight. The procession which formed at the wharf extended almost indefinitely.—The numbers are variously estimated at from 20,000 to 200,000, and probably the real numbers were somewhere between these extremes.—At the principal stand the meeting was called to order by the redoubtable Captain RYNDERS, who nominated for Chairman Hon. DAVID L. SERMOUR of Troy, a nomination which was received with deafening applause.

A number of Vice Presidents were chosen; EDWARD DRIGGS, Esq., representing Kings County; and the usual number of Secretaries. Hon. LYMAN TREMAIN of Albany read a series of resolutions proclaiming that the electoral vote of the Empire State ought to be and will be cast for BUCHANAN and BRECKINRIDGE, congratulating the party on the entire consolidation of its organization, promising a clear majority in the river and ocean counties to the boundaries of the tide-water counties, and asking the interior to meet them there with a similar majority; declaring the cause of Democracy to be the cause of the Union, the defender of popular sovereignty, the rights of peaceable and lawful settlers in the Territories and of citizens regardless of birth-place or religion; referring to the Republican romances about bleeding Kansas and the clerical politicians instructing their congregations as to which of the political parties is "on the Lord's side;" and the necessity of electing PARKER and

VANDERBILT, in view of the unfinished state of the Canals, threatened with an increasing load of debt, extravagantly administered and slowly and expensively improved. The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Hon. R. M. J. HUNTER of Virginia delivered a speech of two hours duration. He wished with all kindness and respect to present a Southern aspect of the questions, the Northern side of which they had heard so often.

The commencement of this issue is to be traced as far back as 1820, when the first sectional division on the question of Slavery occurred upon the proposition to admit Missouri as a State into the Union. The results of this contest are known to all, but how they were brought about has been the subject of much contradictory statement.

The question was formally settled in the House by votes upon two amendments sent down by the Senate. One was to strike out the Anti-Slavery restriction imposed as a condition upon the admission of Missouri as a State into the Union, and the other proposed to apply such a restriction to the territory ceded by France north of 36° 30'. Upon the first proposition the Northern vote stood as 37 in the negative to 14 in the affirmative. Upon the second amendment, which applied the Anti-Slavery restriction to the Territories, the northern vote was 95 in the affirmative to 5 in the negative; and the Southern was 89 in the affirmative to 37 in the negative.

Such are the facts presented by the Journal of Congress, and yet it has been charged by this new party which has arisen in the North that there was a solemn compact by which the North agreed to admit Missouri as a State without the Anti-Slavery restriction upon the condition that this restriction should be applied to the Territories north of 36° 30'; and that the South had subsequently broken its faith, and departed from the compact in the Nebraska-Kansas Act. So far from this being the fact, the official records show that the North (if the majority of her members represent her) never did vote for the admission of Missouri as a State, neither in 1820, nor subsequent in 1821, when she was so received. On the contrary, in 1821 it was proposed by Mallory of Vermont to make the Anti-Slavery proviso a condition of her admission; and the Northern vote stood 61 Ayes to 33 Noes, or nearly as two to one in its favor; and upon the final vote by which Missouri was admitted as a State a majority of the Northern votes was cast against her admission. Now, if the action upon this question in 1820 was regarded as ordinary legislation, then the Northern vote in 1821 was consistent with itself in 1820. But if a solemn compact was made by the North in 1820 for the admission of Missouri without the restriction in 1821, she violated her faith in 1821. But, in truth, she agreed to no such compact. She never did vote for the admission of Missouri on any such terms, neither in 1820 nor in 1821. And yet to what extent the contrary has been stated, and what effect this misstatement has had upon the public mind, you know better than I do.

It was not long after, that the same question arose in regard to the Territory ceded by Mexico. The South then proposed to settle the dispute by a further extension of the line to the Pacific, upon condition of the removal of any supposed restriction upon slavery south of that line. If this work of partition was fair as regards the Louisiana cession and by the Texas annexation, they maintained that it would be fair here also. But their proposition was rejected, and a new principle that of non-intervention, as it was called, was adopted for the settlement of the dispute. The matter was so adjusted, that the South was practically excluded from the whole of that vast territory, and if it gained anything in return it was only the abstract declaration of right, that Congress ought not to intervene on the subject of slavery in the Territories, or in other words, that it was improper to extend to them Anti-Slavery restrictions.

In this settlement the country acquiesced,

very reluctantly on the part of the South, because she believed she had been wronged by that adjustment, still there was a very general acquiescence. When then a question arose as to providing governments for Kansas and Nebraska, could anything have been more natural than for the South to say, whatever rule of settlement you adopt in regard to this question ought to be uniform; if non-intervention was right in regard to the territory ceded by Mexico, it is right here. If it be improper for Congress to apply anti-Slavery restrictions to our Territories, then here is a case in which it has been done. Let the prohibition be removed. So manifestly just and consistent was this claim, that a large portion of the Northern statesmen acceded to it. And yet no sooner was the bill passed, in this shape, than the leaders of this new party proclaimed that the North was swindled. It was alleged that a compact had been made by the North, although it has been shown that it never voted for it, and that the South in bad faith had broken it. Those conservative Democrats of the North who had nobly discharged their duty to the Constitution and the Union, were denounced as "doughfaces" and traitors. Patriots and statesmen they were, and History will yet do them justice, but it was necessary to revile them and the South to subserve the purposes of the new party, which has been growing so rapidly of late. It was essential to create such an excitement in order to turn away the attention of the people from the mischievous consequences and dangerous tendencies of the principles upon which they were agitating to get into power. It is to these principles and their consequences that I wish this day to call your attention. It is upon this very subject that I wish to compare sentiment and opinion with you.

He referred to the effort to admit Kansas under the Topeka Constitution, which dare not be attempted only that they hoped to first cloud the popular understanding by excitement. Here was a convention chosen by a party, and called into existence by no act either of the local Legislature or of Congress. It came into being not only without the sanction of the existing government but in opposition to it. It offered a Constitution which, according to its terms, could not be amended or changed until 1865; it was to be irreversible by the people of the State themselves, for a period of nine years. To bring in the State, under such circumstances, would have been to have given them a Constitution by act of Congress, and not by the action of the people, and a Constitution, too, which the people themselves could not change for nine years. Under such a precedent as this a minority in any of the Slaveholding States might form an Anti-Slavery Constitution, and call upon Congress, if the majority resorted to force, to put down the movement as one of rebellion or insurrection.—Congress would have as much to confer the power of the State Government upon a minority in the one case as in the other, and the higher law, too, would sanction the one as well as the other. Is it to be supposed that any Southern State would put up with such a party as this, in possession of the power of the Federal Government?

The slaveholders have been called an oligarchy because slave property like all other property is unequally distributed. Let us look now to the ground upon which the Southern slaveholders are attacked as an oligarchy, and see how far these arguments may be applied to other social systems also. The census shows that slave property, like all other property, is unequally distributed, and that a majority of the whites in the Southern States do not own slaves. Upon this slender foundation, the charge of oligarchy is made and proclaimed. Suppose that the census had been so taken, as to show the number of persons in the United States who own more than \$5,000 worth of property, they would probably constitute a less proportion of the entire white population than the slaveholders, as compared with the non-slaveholding whites of the South. The number of persons holding an interest in real estate in this country is estimated only at a million and a half; the number holding as much as \$5,000 in property, would probably be still less. When such a fact as that is shown, how easy will it be to denounce these capitalists as oligarchs! May it not be said that the real power of society is in these few hands. These

power of society is in these few hands. These are the men who can establish powers, fee advocates, and wield the immense power which money gives.

The owner of the factory, who lives on his capital, perhaps gets as much of the proceeds as all the laborers who work in it day by day, and from morning until night. The shipowner, who sleeps quietly at home, probably divides equally with all the men who sail the ship and face the perils of the sea. This charge of oligarchy may be made in the one case as in the other. Doubtless it may be said truly, in defence of all this, that without the laws which encourage and protect the accumulation of capital, this vast framework of human society, with all its refinement and civilization, would disappear, and that by such an event, millions of employments by which human beings subsist, would be destroyed and along with them would perish those whom they enabled to live. But cannot arguments of this nature be used to reply to the charge South as well as North. If those things only issue out of the necessary constitution of society in one place, so they do in the other.

What is it that the north risks in the dissolution of the Union? I pass over for the present, the loss of power, moral and political, that it would sustain in such an event as this. I ask, now, what would it lose in point of national wealth and resources? The expenditures of the country have probably now reached sixty millions of dollars, and the day is not far distant when they shall amount to seventy millions. Of these the north secures by far the larger share of the disbursements. When the Army Appropriation bill was in dispute, an approximate estimate was made as to the portions which would probably be disbursed in the Non Slaveholding States and Territories. I suppose there can be little doubt but that four fifths of the entire expenditures are disbursed North.

But if we take population as the test of contribution, and although not accurate as a test, it is nearly enough to approximate to the truth, their share would have been thirteen parts out of twenty two or something more than one half. Instead, then, of receiving the disbursement of four fifths of sixty millions, as probably they will do, their share, according to the contribution, would have been little more than thirty-five millions. The difference of twelve millions is what then they probably owe to the Union. Now, the constant disbursement of twelve millions per annum to any section beyond what it contributes, is equivalent to creating for its benefit a United States Five per Cent Stock to the amount of two hundred and fifty millions of dollars; that this statement approximates to the truth of the case I have very little doubt. That it receives much more from the Federal expenditure than it contributes, if their contribution is to be measured by their population, I have no doubt. The last returns of navigation and commerce show the aggregate of American tonnage to be about five millions of tons.

If we take the relative populations of the Free and Slave States as the measure of division between the two confederacies, the northern would be entitled to not quite 3,000,000 tons. If we take the statement in the census of the number of persons in the Free and Slave States employed in navigation, as a measure of the actual distribution of this tonnage, the north has more than four-fifths, or something more than 4,000,000.—Here then are at least 1,000,000 of tonnage for which she is indebted to the Union. In the census table, the product of manufactures, mining and the mechanic arts for 1850, is stated at \$1,013,336,463, which represents, according to that statement, a profit of something like 43 per cent upon the entire capital employed in those pursuits, for labor, for raw material, machinery and fixtures. Deduct from this the amount exported abroad, and the residue is the product of supply for the home demand. If this demand be measured by numbers, then the share of the northern confederacy would be about 600,000,000, but according to the table the actual division gives them more than 800,000,000. Here then is an annual profit of something like \$200,000,000, which is due to the Union.

To all this is to be added an item, whose value

to the North we have no means to measure, even approximately—I mean the cotton trade. With the exception of specie, there is no commodity yet known to trade which is so capable of being made the basis of an enlarged system of credits. The cotton bale is an almost universal bill of exchange; there are few markets in the world where it is not to be sold for the costs of production and transportation, and a reasonable profit upon them. This fact, and the regularity of its supply, have given it a capacity to constitute a basis for exchange, such as no other commodity, save specie, has ever possessed.

Now the advantages of that vast system of credits go mainly to the American centre of trade, to your own great City, which is not only the centre of American commerce, but is destined to become the centre of trade and exchange for the world, if this Union should last long enough to enable her to fulfill her destiny. So far I have only considered the pecuniary risks, but the actual loss of political power which the North would suffer in such an event, is a matter which involves considerations of as much, or more magnitude than the other, as the Union now stands, the power of the Government is in the hands of the Free States, they have the majority everywhere in both branches of Congress, and in the Electoral College, which makes the President. If they should choose to do so, they could wield the whole power of the Government; whatever strengthens that, strengthens them. In that point of view, the strength which the South adds to the General Government adds also to their own. Divide the Union, and they are limited to the strength of the Free States alone. Nay, this is the best view of the question, which supposes the confederacies to be friendly. If they were hostile, then her strength would be measured by the difference between the two. Such are the losses to which the North would be exposed by a dissolution of the Union, in that view of the case; but those who are seeking to press you to extreme measures take another view of the question. They say that the South could not successfully resist, and in the end must submit. That is certainly very opposite to my opinion upon the subject, but for argument's sake let us suppose it to be so.

Suppose that in the event of resistance you had conquered the Slave States, what would you do with them? There is no provision in the Constitution for holding dependent provinces. You would have to change that, and your form of government too, to effect such an object.

But suppose you could do it, there are the two races together, what would you do with them.—If the white men of the South were reduced to the level of the negroes and deprived of political power they would leave the South to a man and come to where they could exercise political rights. What would you do then? Repeat the West India experiment, convert the Southern States into one great Jamaica, one vast Nigritia? What then would become of the vast commerce and rich customers who now contribute to your power and wealth? What too would be the consequences of the destruction of the great source of supply for that staple upon which so many people beyond the limits of the Southern States depend for subsistence? Unless that race be subjected in some way to involuntary servitude in the South, either these consequences would arise, or they would be exterminated like the red man, in its competition with the white. Is either event a consummation to be desired?—But there is still another view of this case. It is said that this sectional party might be placed in power, and administer the government upon their own principles, and still the South would remain in the Union. Suppose then, for argument sake, that this supposition were true.—Take it, that they remained in the Union with a fixed sense of the injustice of its Government, with a belief that in their cases its power would be used for purposes of offense, instead of defense, and that its patronage would be employed to breed and engender civil strife in their midst. They still preserve their votes according to this supposition, which gives them nearly one half of the Senate, and nearly one third of that of the House of Representatives, and of the electoral colleges. How would that vote be thrown—to aid and support such a Government, or to em-

barrass and thwart it? How long, under such circumstances, would the Government continue to be a practicable machine? So great an obstruction as this constantly interposed in its way would destroy any representative government.

On the conclusion of Mr. Hunter's speech, addresses were delivered by Hon. Mr. Preston of Kentucky, Hon. Mr. Churchwell of Tennessee, Hon. Isaac Toucey of Connecticut, and others.

Other stands were erected in different parts of the ground. Hon. Judges Parker and Vanderbilt spoke at two different stands. Their appearance was the signal for outbursts of applause that sounded like the roar of the ocean. The Kings County delegation got up a stand and organized a meeting of their own. Mr. Spinola called the meeting to order by appointing John J. White, chairman. The meeting was addressed by Hon. Samuel Garrison of Brooklyn, Mr. Birdsall of Orange County, and several others. At another stand addresses were delivered by James Sharkey of Brooklyn, and others. Another stand was occupied and handsomely decorated by the Empire Club. The latter was situated upon the highest ground. At this stand several speeches were made. Senator Toucey spoke briefly, as did Capt. Rynders, Hon. John Kelly, Judge Morton, H. S. Cutting and Richard Busted. When Mr. B. had concluded, Gen. Wallbridge was presented by Mr. Barnard, chairman of the meeting, as an old and well tried Democrat, who had done the State good service in the Thirty-third Congress, and delivered an address.

There were six stands in full operation, from which orators spoke at the same time, and such was the immense mass of people present that they did not in the least interfere with each other. It was a turn out worthy of the Democracy.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

This Paper has the Largest Circulation of any Evening Paper published in the United States. Its value as an Advertising Medium is therefore apparent.

THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 2

The Ferries and the Gas Company.

EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON CITY:
SATURDAY..... October 18, 1856.

Advertisements should be handed in by
12 o'clock, m., otherwise they may not appear
until the next day.

THE WEEKLY STAR.

The Great Speech of the Canvass—The recent speech of Senator R M T Hunter, of Virginia, at Poughkeepsie, is, by long odds, the most statesmanlike and powerful production of the present canvass on either side which it has been our good fortune to read. He, quietly, yet conclusively, demonstrates the utter folly of hopes that the South can venture to remain in the Union with the administration of its national affairs in the hands of an Executive Government holding to the principles of Fremontism, and shows that the North must be the loser by thus throwing away all the many advantages for which it is indebted to the Union, and to its existence alone. Not a word of bluster is to be found in this great speech, which is equally free from a sentiment hostile to the continuance of the Confederacy as made by our fathers, or to frank acquiescence on the part of the South to all the many legitimate disabilities that fall to its lot under the workings of this Government administered in good faith with an eye single to the defence of the rights of all the States and sections. Copies of this speech should be placed in the hands of every voter in the non-slaveholding States. Its effect, as disseminated, would counteract all that all the abolition demagogues in the land of pulpit, press, and legislature have done, or can possibly accomplish in the next quarter of a century, in the way of weakening the bands that hold us together as one people.

WILMINGTON JOURNAL OCTOBER 10, 1856

The Great Poughkeepsie Meeting.

Our New York democratic exchanges, particularly from the interior of the State, are filled with glowing descriptions of the great demonstration at Poughkeepsie on the 1st instant. All accounts agree in stating that it was the largest and most enthusiastic outpouring of the democracy ever witnessed in the Empire State. The Albany Argus says:

“There were twenty-one steamboats from the north and south ends of the river, which gathered crowds from the cities and villages on either bank.—Some of these carried 1,500 men. The railroad trains each way were crowded. From the opposite side of the river, and from the towns in the interior of the country, the democrats came in by thousands. We need not say that all the democrats of Poughkeepsie were out, ready to greet their brethren, exhilarant with the scene and exultant over the prospect.

“Poughkeepsie was decorated in *gala* style for the occasion. Banners, pennants, and devices ornamented the streets. Across the main street were hung inscriptions. ‘Welcome, friends of the Union,’ and the names of Buchanan and Breckinridge greeted the eye on all sides.

“The banners bore devices innumerable. Bucks’ heads appeared on all sides. The Empire Club of New York city was most conspicuous in its bearing. The organizations from the river towns and the interior were composed of the chosen youth of the State, resolute, fearless, indomitable in their democracy—the very men to carry victory by the point of a bayonet in a warlike contest, and to triumph by their enthusiasm in the peaceful struggles of politics. The Albany Rough Hewers Club did not come on the ground till late, owing to the postponement of the hour of departure and the inefficiency of their boat.—When it did come, it made itself felt by its gallant bearing, and heard by the salutes of its cannon, which kept up a continual firing on the hills and through the streets.

“Several of the banners bore artistic portraits of Buchanan and Breckinridge; the smaller devices bore bucks’ heads and manifold devices.

“A portly gentleman, dressed to imitate Parson Beecher, with white cravat and half-clerical robes, loaded down with swords, pistols, and bowie-knives, was preceded by a banner with the inscription:

“‘Sharpe’s rifles better than Bibles.’”

It was an excellent representation of this reverend demagogue and his gospel of bloodshed.”



INFERNAL SENTIMENTS.—FREEMEN OF OLD DUTCHESS AND OF THE RIVER COUNTIES, READ!—Senator Hunter, of Virginia, was brought here on Wednesday last to address you on the subject of *democratic principles*. In his speech he uttered the following atrocious sentiments. Mark them, and reflect:

"Fellow citizens, what is property in man, and what involuntary servitude? Property may be absolute or limited, it may be in fee or for a term of years. *In practice, one man may hold property in the service of another for life, as in the law of slavery; for a term of years, as in the apprenticeship; or for months, weeks, days or hours, as in the case of domestics, or mechanics, or lawyers, or doctors.* In civilized society, there is no man, except in the rare cases of those living on accumulated capital, who does not sell to another a property in his services. *This is servitude, and if constrained by the necessities of poverty, it is as much involuntary as if it were forced by any other physical necessity. The evils which are ascribed to one form of this servitude are common to them all, and so claimed to be by this socialist sect of whom I have spoken.*

Are hard cases of separation in families to be found where slavery exists, DO THEY NOT ALSO OCCUR WHENEVER A MAN IS FORCED BY HIS NECESSITY TO SELL HIS LABOR IN THE HIGHEST MARKET? ARE MANY REVOLTING INSTANCES TO BE FOUND OF THE SUBMISSION BY ONE MAN OF HIS WIFE TO ANOTHER IN THE ONE CASE, DO THEY NOT ALSO OCCUR IN THE OTHER? **WHATEVER EVILS ARE ASCRIBED TO INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE IN THE ONE CASE, CAN AND HAVE BEEN ASCRIBED TO THE OTHER.** Shall we for this reason proclaim that no man shall be allowed to sell his labor, or give a right of property in his services to another?"

According to this patent democrat, all men who live by labor are *slaves*. He who consents voluntarily to labor for a compensation satisfactory to himself, is as much a *slave* as he who is bought and sold, and transferred, like a horse or ox! But inhuman and insulting to all freemen as that sentiment is, it is trifling in comparison to the damning slander upon free society contained in the second paragraph. A party that will invite such a speaker to the free state of New York and endorse his sentiments, ought not to have the first vote within our limits.

PARALLELED DEMONSTRATION!
100,000 "Democrats in the Field!"
 "Buchanan's going to leave us,
 He's going to Haverdell;
 And Fillmore's going with him,
 And they're both going away up Salt River."

The above poetry has not much of the *single*, but it has enough of truth to make up the balance, and we can find nothing more appropriate to head a true account of the great slaveocratic demonstration, "to include all democrats of the river and ocean counties of the state," which came off in this place on Wednesday last. The affair had been got up under the auspices of the party State Central Committee, preparations had been making for weeks, and it was announced that 100,000 were expected.

The day came and with it the demonstration. The turn out from this county was so poor that out of pure charity we will say nothing about it, further than to observe that it did not number in all five hundred men at the highest estimate; from both Orange and Ulster there were not even that small number, and all the rest were supplied by New York and Brooklyn, with the help of a few from Westchester and Rockland. They came in fifteen steamboats, and when all had reached the ground, the highest estimates made by impartial judges placed their numbers from six to eight thousand.

The following speakers had been announced in all their notices, as having accepted the invitation to be present.

The Hon. John S. Wells, of New Hampshire; The Hon. Benj. F. Hallett, of Massachusetts; The Hon. Charles T. James, of Rhode Island; Gov. Small of Vermont; The Hon. Charles Chapman, John Cotton Smith, W. D. Bishop, of Connecticut; the Hon. Charles W. Carrigan, Gov. John L. Dawson, Gov. Wm. Bigler, of Pennsylvania; the Hon. James M. Buchanan, Robt. M. McLane, of Maryland; the Hon. E. M. T. Hunter, of Virginia; the Hon. Thosd Cobb, Judge S. Jones, Gen. J. E. Ward, the Hon. O. A. Lechman, Gov. H. V. Johnson, of Georgia; the Hon. J. P. Benjamin, of Louisiana; the Hon. John C. Breckinridge, Col. W. C. Preston, of Kentucky; Gen. John A. Guzman, of Mississippi; James T. Brady, H. C. Murphy, A. J. Parker, John A. Dix, H. J. Redford, H. Seymour, D. S. Dickinson, Aug. Schell, J. L. White, John Cochran, — Sullivan, G. S. Adams, L. G. Caspers, D. E. Stickles, John Vanderbilt, A. L. Pinney, Dr. Philip, H. Merkle, John Kelly, John Van Buren, A. C. Morton, Judge Downs, Judge King, H. W. Roger, D. L. Seymour, W. H. Ludlow and others of New York State and City.

Of all this number none were present from beyond the limits of the state, Senator Hunter, and Col. Preston of Kentucky, alone excepted, and within the state not three of the announced speakers. But the following prominent party men are reported to have been present: Candidate for governor, Amasa J. Parker, Senator Toucey of Connecticut; Senator Slidell, of Louisiana; Gen. Walbridge, ex M. C., of N. Y.; James Glancy Jones, M. C., of Pa.; John Kelly, ex M. C., of N. Y.; Mr. Caruthers of Md.; Judge Morton, of N. Y.; Daniel B. Taylor and the indomitable Rynders; Col. Burnett, of the New York Volunteers, &c.

All the speaking that was of any account in the case, was by Senator Hunter and Col. Preston, for they alone faced the music and touched upon the issues of the day. They stood up boldly in the defence of slavery as an institution belonging to them by constitutional right, which they had resolved to maintain, and claimed the right to extend. In this they said what the managers wished them *not to say*, and spoiled their humbug of supporting "*Buchanan and Freedom*," with which they have lately sought to cheat the people. All the other speaking was froth only.

Altogether, the affair was cold, spiritless and dull in the extreme, not one fourth of what was expected, and the leaders felt it to be a decided failure. As to the masses, it was easy to see that, except leaders, they were mainly composed of men who knew little and cared less, if possible, about the policy or measures they enlisted to sustain. So long as there was something going on it was all one to them.