

Mr. P. H. Clark had no more faith in the Republican party than in the Democracy. He would as soon go into the Fifth street market space to hear Geo. E. Pugh as Caleb B. Smith, for the former would not abuse the black man any more than the latter. The Republican party was Anti-Slavery so far as it was Anti-Slavery, not from philanthropy and regard to humanity, but from dollars and cents. They wanted to have Kansas free, so that their sons and neighbors might deal in quarter sections and get money. He would as soon have the Democratic party succeed as the Republican. He regarded the interests of Slavery as safe in the hands of Mr. John A. Gurley as in those of Mr. W. S. Groesbeck. For the former and his associates would not be as fanatical as the latter, and would not obtrude the interests of Slavery upon the North so offensively as the latter. If there was anything a Republican feared it was to be called an Abolitionist. You might call him a thief and it would not displease him half so much. When had the Republicans ever done anything for the black man? When the Fugitive Slave Law was passed, the Republicans were going to repeal it. But when they got into Congress, they did nothing to bring this about. They had swallowed the law, and they were now contending that it was right. It reminded him of a Shanghai rooster he had at home. One day he saw the rooster trying to swallow a mouse. The

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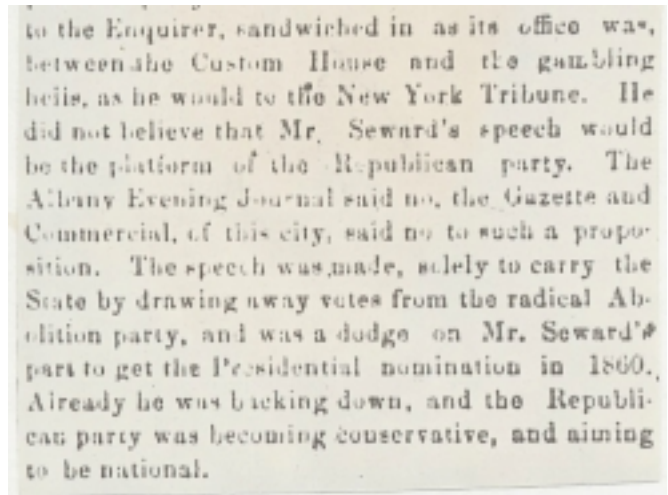
mouse stuck in his crop, and the rooster twisted and turned, and at last it went down, and for aught he knew it was there now. (Laughter.)

He had about made up his mind never to petition for a right again. But if he could seize it he would do so. (Applause.) The great mistake the colored people had made was to believe that a political millenium was coming. The politicians kept on promising, but they never did anything. He thought men who would keep their principles in abeyance, and tell lies to get into affice, would tell lies to keep there. He said that in 1856, Fred Douglass' paper supported Fremont, and probab[-]ly turned at least 500 votes for him. The way they did it was this. They run up Gerrit Smith's name at first, and after that had stayed there a little while, put up Fremont's. And while the *New York Tribune* was publishing the names of all the papers that turned to the support of Fremont, he could not find anywhere the name of Fred Douglass' paper, though there were the names of the "Slabtown Gazette" and the "[Flat-Bottom Snapping Turtle," &c. We all know how in this city J. E. filled the papers with those names of converted papers. J. E. he understood, was James Eliott, Gov. Chase's right-hand man. But he never found in any paper a notice of the fact that Fred Douglass and his paper went for Fremont—No! He had no confidence in the Re[-]publican party. He would as soon trust his rights

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to the Enquirer, sandwiched in as its office was, between the Custom House and the gambling hells, as he would to the New York Tribune. He did not believe that Mr. Seward's speech would be the platform of the Republican party. The Albany Evening Journal said no, the Gazette and Commercial, of this city, said no to such a proposition. The speech was made, solely to carry the State by drawing away votes from the radical Abolition party, and was a dodge on Mr. Seward's part to get the Presidential nomination in 1860. Already he was backing down, and the Republican party was becoming conservative, and aiming to be national.



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