Half a Million Citizens Disfranchised.

Albany, New York, *Evening Journal* [Republican]

(10 March 1857)

Many things in the monstrous decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, shock the moral sense of the public. But the barbarism of the blow which annihilates the citizenship of all the Free colored people in the United States, has fallen with a stunning force on all who have been taught that justice is obligatory on man, and that Christianity is the social law of Humanity. The half million of men and women paralysed by the atheistic logic of the decision of the case of Dred Scott, which disfranchises them on the soil on which they were born, will be to all free and uncorrupted souls a complete denial of the bad law and worse conscience, with which the Supreme Court has pronounced its departure from Republicanism and its entrance into Slavery.

The Past and the Future.

Charleston, South Carolina, *Mercury* [Democratic]

(17 March 1857) Z

…The Supreme Court of the United States, in a recent case, has, by a decision of seven to two of the Judges, established as law what our Southern statesmen have been repeating daily for many years on the floors of Congress, that the whole action of this Government on the subject of slavery, for more than a quarter of a century, from the initiation of the Missouri Restriction in 1822, to the California Compromise in 1850, has been all beyond the limits of the Constitution; was without justifiable authority; and that the whole mass should be now proclaimed null and void, and that slavery is guaranteed by the constitutional compact. …

Now the highest tribunal in the country decides that every principle on which the North has assailed us and sought to repress us in the exercise of our rights as a part of the Confederacy, and to limit the spread of our institutions, to undermine their stability and to endanger their peace, is false in law, and that every enactment of Congress tending to carry out these principles is null and void. …

The Past and the Future.

Charleston, South Carolina, *Mercury* [Democratic]

(17 March 1857) (Y)

Our columns, for some time past, have teemed with a record of facts that it is impossible to review without feelings of strong indignation, and even of amazement -- indignation at the humiliations that have been forced upon us, and amazement at the quiet submission that has marked our counsels and repressed our action.

The Supreme Court of the United States, in a recent case, has, by a decision of seven to two of the Judges, established as law what our Southern statesmen have been repeating daily for many years on the floors of Congress, that the whole action of this Government on the subject of slavery, for more than a quarter of a century, from the initiation of the Missouri Restriction in 1822, to the California Compromise in 1850, has been all beyond the limits of the Constitution; was without justifiable authority; and that the whole mass should be now proclaimed null and void, and that slavery is guaranteed by the constitutional compact.

In this decision of the Court there is certainly presented to the minds of all those anxious Union-savers south of MASON and DIXON'S line -- the men who have been teaching us so anxiously lessons of peace, and forbearance, and self-sacrifice -- a charming subject of contemplation and retrospection. It appears that we, Secessionists, have been all the while not disturbing the law, not intruding novelties upon the country, not seeking to break up established principles, but that we have been simply a step in advance of the highest tribunal in the country, in declaring what was the law of the land, and seeking honestly and faithfully to enforce it.

Now the highest tribunal in the country decides that every principle on which the North has assailed us and sought to repress us in the exercise of our rights as a part of the Confederacy, and to limit the spread of our institutions, to undermine their stability and to endanger their peace, is false in law, and that every enactment of Congress tending to carry out these principles is null and void.

Now, however, we may congratulate ourselves that the highest tribunal has at last interposed and given its sanction to principles that recognize distinctly the equality of the States, and condemn the interference of the Federal Government with affairs that are peculiarly under their jurisdiction, and for interfering with which there is no warrant in our common Constitution, we cannot help feeling a sense of mortification that there has been so little of consistent union, on the part of the South, in the maintenance of principles on which depend absolutely her power, her industrial prosperity, and even her very existence. We might have made a better, as we might have made a more successful, battle in favor of interests so great and so vital. When all was at stake, we ought to have risked all, for the settlement of this question. What was it to us that there was a President to be elected, a Cabinet to be appointed, and a squad of subordinate officers to be placed or displaced. The sea is whitened with the rich freightage of our commerce, and the great country of our home is teeming with the abundant products of our peaceful industry. These are mighty interests, compared with which the shuffling game of politics is pitiful in the extreme; and these are the interests which we have too much allowed our public men to forget, or at least to make secondary to considerations of personal interest.

Shall Slavery Take Possession of the Nation, or shall Freedom Rule?

Columbus, Ohio, *State Journal* [Republican]

(11 March 1857)

Many good-natured, Union-loving men hoped that the administration of Buchanan would be an improvement upon that of Franklin Pierce. We were not of that number. We at one time believed that the administration of John Tyler would stand forever in the history of this country, as the worst that could be, so far as the rights of the Free States were concerned. We were mistaken. The Slave power has increased rapidly ever since that time, and now it has reached a point which is fearful to contemplate. First, it subdued the Executive Government; second, the Legislative; and now it grasps the Judiciary. The grand object of the oligarchs has been perfected. *They have made Slavery National, Freedom Sectional.*

According to the recent decision of the Supreme Court, there is not one foot of free territory belonging to the Union, outside of the free States. The Wilmot Proviso applied to Oregon and Minnesota, has fallen lifeless to the earth, and slaves can now be taken there and worked, with the shield of the Federal Constitution to guard and protect their masters in the management of this, their property. The Territories have become one great slave pen. How long it will be before this power will apply the same principles to the States? Colored men are now declared not to be citizens of the United States, they are outlawed from all claims to citizenship in the land of their nativity, in the home of their fathers. Like the Bohemian Magraubin, "they have no home, no country." They are simply property; they are as horses and cattle. They can be bought and sold, but they cannot be citizens.

Buchanan's Inaugural foreshadows his policy. His administration will carry out the "principles of the Constitution" as expounded by a slave-holding Supreme Court. Even Squatter sovereignty has had fetters put upon its fetlocks by the Inaugural. It now means that the people of a Territory can only exclude slavery when they came to make a State Constitution, not before. Until that hour arrives, there is no power in our government, or in the people to prevent the extension of the curse, and when that hour arrives, they will be strong enough to have slavery acknowledged and protected. To carry out this infernal doctrine, the whole power of the general government during the administration of Buchanan will be brought, and if the people of the free States submit to it, all is lost. But they will not submit. From this day forth, the spirit of resistance, legal, constitutional, popular resistance will be organized. Even the most prejudiced of the Democratic party must see that unless the North speaks, unites, resents, acts, in opposition to this aristocracy of slaveholders, the whole government will become a mere instruments to oppress poor, downtrodden humanity, and to cover our whole continent with slavery, as the waters cover the sea.

The Issue must be met.

Milledgeville, Georgia, *Federal Union* [Democratic]

(31 March 1857)

The late decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the Dred Scott case, will bring the enemies of the South face to face with the Constitution of their country. They cannot escape the issue presented -- the observance of the laws of the land, or disunion. They can no longer dodge under such pretexts as "bleeding Kansas." That harp of one string has played its last tune, and must now be hung up. Or, if continued to be used by the reverends Henry Ward Beecher and Theodore Parker, it will not call forth the responses it was wont to do in the flush times of "bleeding Kansas." Many of the followers of these infidel preachers are not the fools or fanatics their conduct would seem to indicate. They acted upon principle, many of them, in their opposition to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise; and their zeal for free Kansas was excited to the highest pitch, by the lying agents of the Free State Party. But it is a quite different question now. The leaders of the Black Republican Party are denouncing the decision of the very Tribunal to which they had appealed, and are endeavoring to excite among the people of the North a bitter hostility to it. They will endeavor to organize a party on the basis of opposition to the decision of the majority of the Court in the Dred Scott case. But as fanatical as the people of New England are, they will hesitate to enter the ranks of a political party, organized for the express purpose of overturning a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. Some of our Southern editors depreciate the agitation to which this decision will give rise. But let it come. The fury of the storm has passed. The treasonable conduct of the leaders of the Black Republican party will be rebuked at their very doors. The issue they have raised will be met by the true-hearted, Constitutional, law-abiding men of the North, and thousands who followed Fremont and "bleeding Kansas," will find themselves allied with the Union men of the country, in sustaining the determination of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case.

Editorial to Model Perspective Analysis With Class

Decision in the Dred Scott Case.

Springfield, Illinois, *State Journal* [Republican]
(14 March 1857)

The following is the substance of the opinion of Judge Curtis in the Dred Scott case, recently decided at Washington:

Judge Curtis dissented from the opinion of the majority of the Court, as delivered by Chief Justice Taney, and gave his reasons for the dissent. He maintained that native-born colored persons can be citizens of States and of the United States; that Dred Scott and his family were free when they returned to Missouri, that the power of Congress to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the Territory was not, as the majority of the Court expressed, limited to territory belonging to the United States at the time of the adoption of the Constitution but has been applied to five subsequent acquisitions of land, that Congress has power to exclude slavery from the Territories, having established eight Territorial Governments without, and recognized slavery in six, from the days of Washington to John Quincy Adams.

judges Wayne, Grier, Campbell and Daniel had papers expressing their views on certain points of opinion of the Court, but did not read them.

We are glad to learn through a full report of the proceedings that Judge Grier, as well as Judges McLean and Curtis, decided in favor of the Missouri Compromise. the Court thus stands six to three, and not seven to two as at first reported.
