

so essential to good order; that the extent to which the Supreme Court has thus compromised its character renders it incumbent upon the people to consider what measures are necessary to restore that tribunal to its ancient state.

4. That in the opinion of this assembly, an amendment of the Federal Judiciary system is indispensably necessary, so that the sovereignty of the states may be respected, and that individuals may be guarded from oppression. As a means to this end, it is strongly recommended that the life tenure of judges be abolished, and that the judicial office be limited to a term of years; that Congress so remodel the judicial circuits that a majority of the citizens of the United States shall have a majority of the justices of the Supreme Court.

5th. That the recent proceedings of the Federal Court for this District, in producing the conviction of persons indicted under the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Law, by the employment of the most disgraceful partizan means, is without a parallel even in the modern history of despotism.

MASS CONVENTION AGAINST THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

CLEVELAND, MAY 24.

A Mass Convention of the foes of the Fugitive Slave act assembled here to-day, and was well attended. A very large number were present from the Reserve Counties. Every thing passed off orderly. The following Declaration was read, denouncing the Fugitive Slave law and the Dred Scott decision:—

This assembly of the people of Ohio, holding—

That, next to our duty to the Supreme Being, is the obligation to preserve our free institutions and our civil liberties:

That the greatest tyrants have been those whose titles have been least questioned:

That every violation of the Constitution should be watched with jealousy and resented with spirit:

That the history of every free people has shown the impossibility of a cordial compliance with laws which neither embody nor execute the public will:

That the enforcement of such laws against an unwilling people is productive only of evils, threatening public order and the stability of governmental institutions:

And holding, furthermore—

That the history of the government of the United States, as recently administered, is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the Africanization of this continent by the diffusion and establishment of slavery; and the restriction and limitation of freedom, thus reversing the ancient policy of the founders of the Republic, which looked to the extinction of slavery and the extension of liberty; and

That the Dred Scott decision, reversing all the well-established rules which for ages have been the bulwark of personal liberty, yields its legitimate fruits in the recent atrocities committed in the heart of the Western Reserve, and calls upon us for new efforts and new sacrifices for constitutional liberty, do, therefore, publish and

DECLARE:

1st. That the several States composing the United States of America are not united on the principle of unlimited submission to their general government; but that, by compact, under the style and title of a Constitution for the United States; and of amendments thereto, they constituted a general government for special purposes, delegated to that government certain definite powers, reserving each State to itself the residuary mass of right to their own self-government; and that whenever the general government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force; and being void, can derive no validity from mere judicial interpretation; and to this compact each State acceded as a State, and is an integral party; that this government, created by this compact, was not made the exclusive or final judge of the powers delegated to itself, since that would have made its discretion and not the constitution the measure of its powers; but that, as in all other cases of compact among parties having no common judge, each party has an equal right to judge for itself, as well of infractions as of the mode and measure of redress.

2. That the law, commonly called the Fugitive Slave law of 1850, was, in the opinion of this assembly, passed by Congress in the exercise of powers improperly assumed, and had it been presented as an original question to a wise, impartial and independent Court, must have been held to be in conflict with the constitution, and therefore void.

3. That one of the most alarming symptoms of degeneracy in the general government is the pliant States to the objects of party politics, thus greatly diminishing that public confidence in the Judiciary