

## **Governor James Grimes' Letter to the Citizens of Iowa, February 12, 1856**

To the Citizens of Iowa

Believing that a large majority of the citizens of Iowa are opposed to the political principles of the present Administration, and to the introduction of slavery into territory now free, and also that made free by the Compromise of 1820; and that the party styling itself the "Democratic Party," are striving to make slavery itself a great national institution, contrary to the principles laid down in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as taught by the Fathers of the Republic; we would call upon all such free citizens to meet in Convention, at Iowa City, on the 22d day of February, for the purpose of organizing a Republican Party, to make common cause with a similar party already formed in several of the other States of the Union.

January 3, 1856.

Many Citizens