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For the National Era.

LIFE ON PRAIRIE DE LA FLEUR.—NO. 13.

BY MARY IRVING.

CHAP. IV.

Conclusion.

They glided across the lawn with the noiseless step of spirits, to the hut hitch of the gate, rattled in unclosing, a huge brown mastiff started up before it, with a low growl, like gathering thunder.

"Hush, Ponto!" spoke his mistress, in a commanding tone, stroking his bristling head. "Lie down, good dog—there!" The dog licked the recognised hand, drew back half under his kennel, and seated himself upon his haunches, to watch them out of sight.

On they went, through the long, dew-damp grass, heedless of paths or of fences.

"There is witchcraft here, or a mystery still stranger," said the young man, half silent-solicitly, meanwhile. "How *could* she know that my name was Frank?"

They had now reached the borders of the grove. The shadows were rustling softly, as though moved by a sigh from the very heart of Night. The wood-arches, clogged with rank under-brush, looked deep in dark mysterious. It seemed a moment strange-sudden, as from some supernatural influence, shook the imaginative spirit of the young follower. But his guide moved on quietly as before. Leading him to an almost invisible path among the bushes, she stopped in advance of the tree nearest distinctly thrown relief by the yellow moonbeams that pierced some crevice in the leafarch of the forest, and the next, flitting like a dim phantom through an unbroken shadow.

Had a den of robbers yawned suddenly before the straining eyes of Lewis, he could not have been more surprised than when, emerging from this shadowy-shade, he stepped at once into a spot Titania night well have chosen for her "midsummer night's revel."

He found himself standing upon a high, wild, bold on the very edge of a still, silver stream, which flashed up from some lovely nook, as if it were set there only for a mirror to the moon. The low land on its opposite side was filled with giant trees, whose tops waved nearly level with his station. A little circle of the moonlight, cedars, interlacing on the very summit of the knoll, over-arched him like a bower; and in front, a gnarled oak stretched out its distorted arms for over the stream, as though bending to toss its head in scorn at its own deformed image. A white mist lay, like floating gauze, around the edges of the water. Lewis shivered, for, veiled in that deceptive mist, he fancied the ghost of Fever and Ague intruding suddenly into that scene and hour of romance.

"Heigho! I have been walking in my sleep, and am only half waked yet," he exclaimed, rubbing his eyes involuntarily. "My good friend, our track must needs literally 'run up a tree,' if it extends any farther."

But she had stopped at the foot of the oak, where the moonlight fell in its fullest radiance on her pale, raised forehead, from which the white shawl was thrown back. Turning face to face with him, she spoke in a tone of earnest trepidation.

"I have no time for apologies, and I know they are not necessary: for I have read a noble heart in your face—a heart that will not shrink from the ordeal of the fiery custom; and I am resolved to throw myself upon its generosity. Answer me—as yonder heaven is true! are you Frank Lewis, of ——?"

"Frank *Talbot* Lewis—yes!"

"And your mother—was—"

"Was a Talbot!" interrupted his questioner, agitated at last beyond control, "I know it, I know it! My boy—my young master—my Franky!"

She sprang forward, as though she would have clasped him in her arms; but, with sudden recollection, she dropped at his feet, and clung to his knees in a burst of passionate tears and inarticulate ejaculations.

"Who are you, woman? Speak!" Frank demanded, breathlessly. He had started back at her mention of his mother's name; but not he bent to lift her up with almost intolerable curiosity.

"Oh, Frank! Master Frank! have you forgotten your old first friend—your nurse Milly, your 'Aunty Milly!'"

"Aunty Milly!" Frank clapped his hand to his forehead, and strove to pierce through the pouring memories crowd at the name. "Aunty Milly! The name is strangely natural—yet—lift your face—here—into the light!"

"Your mother gave you into my arms, when she was dying—when you were a little, helpless baby! She told me to watch over you—to love you—and never, never, to leave you! Master Frank, you *could* not forget me!"

"But you did leave me!" the exclaimed he wildness of pain, as a sudden remembrance dawned like a nebula on the farthest verge of his life-horizon. "How came you here?"

"I was hated—ill-treated—abused; and, at last, I was sold away from you. Then God gave me my own liberty—and I took it!"

"*You were a slave—and my foster-mother!*"

"Your nurse, Master Frank. I was your father's slave. *I am your slave!*"

She rose up in the moonlight as she spoke, proudly erect, but pale in the subsiding of the agitation that had convulsed her.

"Oh, my young master, I have prayed God to let me look upon you again. I have called in the dark lonesome nights, when not a living thing was near to hear me. But I have never heard a whisper from you or of you since that dreadful morning."

A now wave of emotion swept over her, and she wept more calmly and freely. Frank supported her with his arm, as she leaned against the rough tree, and spoke soothingly and sympathizingly.

"It is your mother's very voice!" she said, in a choked tone. "Oh! I have heard it almost reproving me in my dreams!"

"My good, kind, forgotten nurse! I do remember that name. Sit down here, on this knot of the oak, and unravel the rest of the mystery for me. Tell me where you have been, and what brought you here."

And Milly, calming her sobs, told a short and hurried story:

"On leaving C——, she had found her way by the once mysterious "under-ground railroad," to northern Ohio. There, under the patronage of friends, she was enabled to enjoy advantages which her quick intellect and mind have sought so successfully, and to build up, with diligence and delight, the education whose foundation her dear mistress had so secretly laid. I had not been long in her service before I to retain her master's name: (slaves seldom know any other:) but either through carelessness, or a false sense of security, she had done so. The sudden seizure of a companion so hazard burst like a thunderbolt upon her placed life, and taught her her full danger. Weary, at last, with living in a perpetual tremor, she had sought shelter under the folds of the British lion. Her visit to Canada set a teacher among her degraded and ignorant countrymen. Life among the refugees was a new and sad chapter to her, who had never been inured by hard toil to bodily strength, and her health sunk under hardship. Among the Mr. Egerton, in their English freedom from prejudice, had taken her as their children's governess. More like a sister and aunt was she, now, to the heirs of the old farmer, than she dare avowed her, as to deem her an essential part of their home. Only to the invalid Mrs. Egerton, however, who delegated to her the whole responsibility of her children, did Milly intrust her whole story. The children, even to Ada, had gathered only brief hints here and there.

She had emigrated with her friends from their Canadian to their prairie home. For two summers she had presided in the pretty school-house, two miles away, whose inmates were innocently and delightfully unconscious of the one drop of degrading blood that weighed like a millstone on the destiny of their best-beloved of schoolmistresses.

"Frank, Master Frank, you will not betray me!" she concluded, her voice trembling to weakness.

"Hush, Milly, not a word of it! What do you take me for? I don't believe you were ever rightfully a slave; and, at any rate, you shall be free! Come, my good friend, lifting his brown face into the moon-beams.

She shook her head doubtingly. "*No one* was over 'rightly a slave,' believe it, Master Frank! Young as I was, among three years yet of your majority, come next spring, and God knows what may happen between this and then. Oh! I tremble under that Henley's eye! It is he not the son of Colonel Lathrop Henley?"

"Colonel Henley? Yes; he is my guardian."

"I feared it!" She clasped her hands, and dropped her face upon them. Then starting up, she cried, "We must not stay. *That* man has the power of life and death over me."

"Why?" urged Lewis. "Henley is not the the man to harm you in any way. He should not if he were."

"Ah! Master Frank! you don't know *his* heart yet! Trouble has made me sharper-sighted than I used to be. Listen! That man is could kill me without Louisiana, for the money that would richly pay his gaming debt. I say, *could* do it in spite of your utmost strength of will; and he *will* do it, if he knows me. Come, we linger."

"But how do you know about his gaming debts?" exclaimed Frank, in fresh surprise.

"I have read them on his forehead, and on his fingers, when he was shuffling that pack of cards on the little table. Oh! Master Frank, beware of Henley! He may veil the blackness of his heart in friendship to you, but he's his own father's true son—a lawless enticer to ruin! Why, Milly, shuddering anew, he stepped at once into a spot Titania night well have chosen for her "midsummer night's revel."

He found himself standing upon a high, wild, bold on the very edge of a still, silver stream, which flashed up from some lovely nook, as if it were set there only for a mirror to the moon. The low land on its opposite side was filled with giant trees, whose tops waved nearly level with his station. A little circle of the moonlight, cedars, interlacing on the very summit of the knoll, over-arched him like a bower; and in front, a gnarled oak stretched out its distorted arms for over the stream, as though bending to toss its head in scorn at its own deformed image. A white mist lay, like floating gauze, around the edges of the water. Lewis shivered, for, veiled in that deceptive mist, he fancied the ghost of Fever and Ague intruding suddenly into that scene and hour of romance.

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"Frank *Talbot* Lewis—yes!"

"And your mother—was—" She bent forward, as though her very life hung upon the answer to that half-shaped question.

"My mother—I knew very little of her. She died before my memory dawned. She was a Massachusetts lady—her name"—

"*Amy Talbot?*" interrupted his questioner, agitated at last beyond control, "I know it, I know it! My boy—my young master—my Franky!"

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At last, when Milly in her tremulous tone, repeated the words of his farewell whisper, Ada lifted up her tear-bedewed face, like a June rose to the rainbow of its first thunder-shower, glowing in undisguised delight. Ah! Ada's chiefest joy was always woman-hood, more swiftly than the rose unfolds!

"Then he *will* come again!" she innocently and frankly exclaimed.

"—he *will* come again"—and yet again.

Before the termination of the tour he contemplated, Henley fell a victim to the cholera, which had just broken out among the river steamers. Frank was at his side through all the hours of the brief, excruciating illness, listening to the yet more heart-rending cry of a despairing soul, that had squandered its treasure of Time, and struggled back in vain from the brink of Eternity. Henley's excellent moral was not lost upon the young survivor.

He found his guardian overwhelmed with grief, even to imbecility, at the loss of his only nephew in this country, and indignantly remonstrate against such false representations being made of themselves, either by societies or individuals! There are those who think far less of the literary merit of Uncle Tom's Cabin, they do of the moral, humane, and Christian sentiments that pervade them, and they deem such works as are in harmony with Gospel truth the highest blessing they can leave to their children. But the hopes of having such a legacy in vain, if publishers can thus alter their works with impunity.

In conclusion, I would ask, Do not the descendants of Dr. Porter owe it to themselves and to the fair fame of their excellent ancestor, to come forward and vindicate his memory from all participation in, or connivance at such a deed?

C. D. C.

For the National Era.

A DIARY.

BY MARTHA RUSSELL.

H——, *Nov. 9th, 185–.*

No, not that album, loaded with gilt like an Eastern shawl, pretty though it be "precisely like the one on Lady Blessington's table," as the giver, Mr. H., assures me; but this one in plain black, with only the design of the serpent K. done upon the cover, it is "plain and substantial," as old Mrs. A. was pleased to say of myself; and when Harold T. gave it me, pointing to the design, he bade me heed the symbol well, saying in that dark, grave way of his, "Was it foolish to both wisdom and gentleness, 'My master,' I should hardly have borne *that* from any one else. But, perhaps, he was right—right, also, when he said that 'women could not be trusted with anything.' I denied it then, and resented it as a libel; but, now, after a four weeks' sojourn with these relatives, with whom it seems impossible to establish anything like a sympathy, I feel that I can be true to feel its truth, else I should not be blotting the blank leaves of his gift.

N. B. I will never own as much to him!

I think I should consider the book in vision, the goddess of the idle; doubtless many of my self-constituted advisers would think it very appropriate. Not that I admit that I have any more of an inherent proclivity to what, in their eyes, constitutes the sum of all moral evil, "idleness"—than many others, but I am, unfortunately, always doing those things which I ought not to do, and in a way in which they ought not to be done; and as Aunt Minkel said, when I saw no impropriety in carrying from Stewart's to her house a small parcel, containing a few yards of silk, "there is no hope for me!"

I know I am neither pretty nor graceful, but I never have such a saving consciousness of the fact, as when with my mother's relatives. I wonder how much such remarks, uttered in a tone of cold, critical commiseration, as: "Elizabeth is so overgrown, so gawky—Elizabeth is odd; she has no taste in dress; her head is so large; and then, her feet! She has not the slightest idea of a child; all grown!" &c., (my father's alliance being the one "Blot in the Escutcheon,") have had to do with my awkwardness. They are not particularly calculated to remedy the defect, I fancy.

Once I felt all this keenly, but I am getting bravely over it. My head and my feet are as God made them; and, so, to my taste, let them remain! But I have had no means of gratifying it before they deny me its possession; and as to lacking the "Sewal air," the slightest childish memory that I cherish of my noble father, is more to me than "the blood of all the Sewals!"

There! There goes the dinner-bell! My fingers are inky, my collar the sixteenth part of an inch awry; if I do not stay to right it, aunt will be sure to perceive it; if I do, I shall be the sixteenth part of a minute too late at the table, and uncle will look like an iceberg—between them both the room will be like Spitzbergen. Ethelwyn is unusually cheerful and *elastic* for a few moments, then eat her dinner with the self-possession of Queen Vastiti of old.

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No sooner did I read this, than I asked myself, Why are "Readers" prepared expressly for Southern children? Have they, with their "peculiar institutions," "peculiar organs of speech" or do they require "peculiar" training? Or have they any "peculiar" dialect, so that they would not understand the pure English, as spoken and printed for our Northern children? Or, are the children there so much quicker than those north of Mason and Dixon's line, that they require reading books of a much higher order? Or, what is more probable, do the parents of that region, in humble imitation of bigger folk—as the "Managers" of the American Tract Society, and the "Committee of Publication" of the American Sunday School Union—keep an ever-watchful eye, lest their children should see some humane, truthful sentiments adverse to their own dear, cherished, "patriarchal," "peculiar institution?" No, this cannot be, thought I, for the "Fourth Part" of this series is that excellent reading-book, Porter's Rhetorical Reader, which contains, I know, at least two pieces of poetry—Cowper's touching "Negro's Complaint," and the "Abolition of the Slave Trade"—which no slaveholder, one would think, could read without some twinges of conscience.

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Now, what shall be said of such conduct as this? Can words of censure be found strong enough to characterize it? Are publishers, who would do such a deed, deserving of any patronage from Christian, high-minded men? Should not the whole North say to them, "Sure, if you choose thus basely to cringe to the slave power, and to expurgate from your books every sentiment of humanity and liberty, to suit that 'peculiar' market, to that market go for your support, and we will give our countenance and our money to such only as show themselves independent, truth-loving, honest men?"

But this is not all. To the cowardice of this act the author, Dr. Porter, is doubtless also doubtedly be added. This, I know, is very plain language; but, in a case of this kind, the truth demands great plainness. The book in question is called a "Rhetorical Reader." Now, as I verily believe, this is not "Porter's Reader"—that is, it is not as the pious and venerable Dr. Porter left it: HE NEVER CONSENTED TO THE MUTILATION OF HIS BOOK. That good man and accomplished scholar died at Andover, Mass., on the 5th of April, 1834—SIXTEEN YEARS AGO; this book, thus mutilated, has been published within a very few years. The date of copyright of the book is cautiously omitted in the title-page, but I cannot trace its publication further back than 1848. The publishers, therefore, are called upon to show their authority for thus mutilating Dr. Porter's excellent book. If they cannot do it, I need not say what will be the verdict of the public.

Is it not time for authors to lift up their voice in this matter, and indignantly remonstrate against such false representations being made of themselves, either by societies or individuals? There are those who think far less of the literary merit of Uncle Tom's Cabin, they do of the moral, humane, and Christian sentiments that pervade them, and they deem such works as are in harmony with Gospel truth the highest blessing they can leave to their children. But the hopes of having such a legacy in vain, if publishers can thus alter their works with impunity.

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THE SUBSERVIENCY OF SCHOOL LITERATURE TO THE SLAVE POWER.

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Had a painful consciousness of the rosy tide that tinted her temples, as she returned that parting pressure. For her life the girl could not have spoken, without unlocking tears and sobs, as a sudden remembrance of her mother's very speechlessness, she shrunk back, and began to pull the prettiest blossoms of the eglantine to fragments.

"Lewis! what makes the eglantine so growing!" Henley called out, impatiently. "Are you under a spell, to stand palavering till the sun is three hours high?"

Frank caught up little Nora for one more kiss, and then, with a graceful wave of the hand, sprang lightly to his seat. Away over the prairie they swiftly sped. Ada almost unconsciously followed her friend to the little gate; and, leaning upon it, stood to watch the receding carriage. It was sad—dreary—desolate! Ada felt it, and cried. Ada knew not why, nor did she try to analyze her impulses. If only second, one moment, as though her heart had mysteriously received a new sense of the beauty of the earth—the glory of the sky; but the next, when she lifted her eye to that receding speck in the distance, that heart sank in her boddice as though it could never bound again.

Ada let down her veil, parted lips and hushed breath, to the first part of the strange story. As it grew more and, she burst into tears, and throwing her arms around the neck of her friend, she hid her face upon her shoulder.

"Oh! my poor, poor Auntie! *have* you suffered this, and I never dreamed of it?"

Milly's eye moistened as she returned the caress, but she went on calmly. As she spoke of Frank Lewis, Ada's arms relaxed their hold. She did not lift her head, but the color ebbed and flowed in her temples with every fresh surprise that linked him with the narrative.

At last, when Milly in her tremulous tone, repeated the words of his farewell whisper, Ada lifted up her tear-bedewed face, like a June rose to the rainbow of its first thunder-shower, glowing in undisguised delight. Ah! Ada's chiefest joy was always woman-hood, more swiftly than the rose unfolds!

"Then he *will* come again!" she innocently and frankly exclaimed.

"—he *will* come again"—and yet again.

Before the termination of the tour he contemplated, Henley fell a victim to the cholera, which had just broken out among the river steamers. Frank was at his side through all the hours of the brief, excruciating illness, listening to the yet more heart-rending cry of a despairing soul, that had squandered its treasure of Time, and struggled back in vain from the brink of Eternity. Henley's excellent moral was not lost upon the young survivor.

He found his guardian overwhelmed with grief, even to imbecility, at the loss of his only nephew in this country, and indignantly remonstrate against such false representations being made of themselves, either by societies or individuals! There are those who think far less of the literary merit of Uncle Tom's Cabin, they do of the moral, humane, and Christian sentiments that pervade them, and they deem such works as are in harmony with Gospel truth the highest blessing they can leave to their children. But the hopes of having such a legacy in vain, if publishers can thus alter their works with impunity.

In conclusion, I would ask, Do not the descendants of Dr. Porter owe it to themselves and to the fair fame of their excellent ancestor, to come forward and vindicate his memory from all participation in, or connivance at such a deed?

C. D. C.

For the National Era.

A DIARY.

BY MARTHA RUSSELL.

H——, *Nov. 9th, 185–.*

No, not that album, loaded with gilt like an Eastern shawl, pretty though it be "precisely like the one on Lady Blessington's table," as the giver, Mr. H., assures me; but this one in plain black, with only the design of the serpent K. done upon the cover, it is "plain and substantial," as old Mrs. A. was pleased to say of myself; and when Harold T. gave it me, pointing to the design, he bade me heed the symbol well, saying in that dark, grave way of his, "Was it foolish to both wisdom and gentleness, 'My master,' I should hardly have borne *that* from any one else. But, perhaps, he was right—right, also, when he said that 'women could not be trusted with anything.' I denied it then, and resented it as a libel; but, now, after a four weeks' sojourn with these relatives, with whom it seems impossible to establish anything like a sympathy, I feel that I can be true to feel its truth, else I should not be blotting the blank leaves of his gift.

N. B. I will never own as much to him!

I think I should consider the book in vision, the goddess of the idle; doubtless many of my self-constituted advisers would think it very appropriate. Not that I admit that I have any more of an inherent proclivity to what, in their eyes, constitutes the sum of all moral evil, "idleness"—than many others, but I am, unfortunately, always doing those things which I ought not to do, and in a way in which they ought not to be done; and as Aunt Minkel said, when I saw no impropriety in carrying from Stewart's to her house a small parcel, containing a few yards of silk, "there is no hope for me!"

I know I am neither pretty nor graceful, but I never have such a saving consciousness of the fact, as when with my mother's relatives. I wonder how much such remarks, uttered in a tone of cold, critical commiseration, as: "Elizabeth is so overgrown, so gawky—Elizabeth is odd; she has no taste in dress; her head is so large; and then, her feet! She has not the slightest idea of a child; all grown!" &c., (my father's alliance being the one "Blot in the Escutcheon,") have had to do with my awkwardness. They are not particularly calculated to remedy the defect, I fancy.

Once I felt all this keenly, but I am getting bravely over it. My head and my feet are as God made them; and, so, to my taste, let them remain! But I have had no means of gratifying it before they deny me its possession; and as to lacking the "Sewal air," the slightest childish memory that I cherish of my noble father, is more to me than "the blood of all the Sewals!"

There! There goes the dinner-bell! My fingers are inky, my collar the sixteenth part of an inch awry; if I do not stay to right it, aunt will be sure to perceive it; if I do, I shall be the sixteenth part of a minute too late at the table, and uncle will look like an iceberg—between them both the room will be like Spitzbergen. Ethelwyn is unusually cheerful and *elastic* for a few moments, then eat her dinner with the self-possession of Queen Vastiti of old.

Nov. 10.—"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold and pictures of silver," we are told, but who has not felt sometimes that a word fitly withheld is not less precious?

Had I remembered this yesterday, I would have refrained from shocking uncle and aunt with my heresies, and slept with a long lecture on "womanly proprieties," and "woman's sphere," this morning.

Though some moments too late, I was happily disappointed in entering the dining-room, for uncle was too busily occupied in talking with an old gentleman to notice my tardiness, though the exquisite French time-piece on the mantel-piece chimed twelve. In the March last, I saw under the contributions of Newman & Ivison, of your city, the following:

"Alabama Readers, in Four Parts—prepared expressly for the use of Southern Schools."

"Part Fourth—Rhetorical Exercises, &c., by Dr. Porter, late of Andover Theological Seminary."

No sooner did I read this, than I asked myself, Why are "Readers" prepared expressly for Southern children? Have they, with their "peculiar institutions," "peculiar organs of speech" or do they require "peculiar" training? Or have they any "peculiar" dialect, so that they would not understand the pure English, as spoken and printed for our Northern children? Or, are the children there so much quicker than those north of Mason and Dixon's line, that they require reading books of a much higher order? Or, what is more probable, do the parents of that region, in humble imitation of bigger folk—as the "Managers" of the American Tract Society, and the "Committee of Publication" of the American Sunday School Union—keep an ever-watchful eye, lest their children should see some humane, truthful sentiments adverse to their own dear, cherished, "patriarchal," "peculiar institution?" No, this cannot be, thought I, for the "Fourth Part" of this series is that excellent reading-book, Porter's Rhetorical Reader, which contains, I know, at least two pieces of poetry—Cowper's touching "Negro's Complaint," and the "Abolition of the Slave Trade"—which no slaveholder, one would think, could read without some twinges of conscience.

But, to satisfy myself, I got a copy of this same book, and compared it with the old Rhetorical Reader of Dr. Porter, when lo! for the "Negro's Complaint," on pages 120, 121, and 122, I found substituted, "Spirit-Selling a Curse to the Seller;" and for the "Abolition of the Slave Trade," on pages 124 and 125, "Basis of Infidelity." I could hardly believe my own eyes; but any of your readers can get the books and see the truth of my statement for themselves.

Now, what shall be said of such conduct as this? Can words of censure be found strong enough to characterize it? Are publishers, who would do such a deed, deserving of any patronage from Christian, high-minded men? Should not the whole North say to them, "Sure, if you choose thus basely to cringe to the slave power, and to expurgate from your books every sentiment of humanity and liberty, to suit that

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

OHIO POLITICS.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, *Sept. 19, 1853.*

To the Editor of the National Era:

The prospects of the Free Democracy were never more encouraging in this State than at present. Messrs. Lewis, Chase, Hamlin, Julian, and others, are now engaged in canvassing the State. They are meeting with the warmest reception everywhere, and the prospect is that the Free Democratic vote will be greatly increased. Mr. Lewis being the only candidate for Governor who is reliable on the Temperance question, multitudes of Temperance Whigs will consequently come boldly over to him. In the election of members of the Legislature the Maine Law is the great question, and old party lines are mostly obliterated, and candidates are questioned with reference to their position on this question.

In counties where Free Democrats have a majority, Maine Law Free Democrats are nominated, and in counties where the contests where they are in the minority, a union of the temperance men of all political parties is frequently formed. In these peoples tickets the Free Democracy have quite a fair representation in the candidates, and we anticipate that some fifteen or twenty Free Democrats will be returned to the Legislature next winter, who will hold the balance of power, and, we trust, secure the re-election of Mr. Chase to the U. S. Senate. Quite a deep interest is felt through out the State in the election of the State Commissioner of Common Schools. This office was created by the last Legislature, and will have a very great influence on our common school, and the interests of the State. Some years ago, for about three years, we had a similar office, which was very ably filled by Samuel Lewis, our present candidate for Governor. Under his supervision our schools of Ohio were greatly elevated and improved. The people now feel a deep interest in having this office again in able hands. They wish to have it removed from party politics, and the person to be chosen with reference to his fitness, and with reference to his party predilections. Mr. Lorin Andrews, a gentleman of fine attainments, who has been employed for several years as superintendent, by the Ohio Teachers' Association, and who has shown himself eminently fitted for the place, has been recommended for the office by the ardent friends of education. He is now supported by almost the entire Free Soil and Whig press, by several independent papers, by many Democrats, and the teachers of the State generally.

The Free Democracy, not content that the office should be filled by a people's movement, or by any other person than a strict Democratic partisan, have nominated Mr. H. H. Barney. We anticipate, however, that Mr. Andrews will be returned, and we feel confident that many of all parties combined, at the last election, was 15,000 over the Democratic party.

Mr. Andrews, although he has heretofore generally voted with the Whig party, has opposed to the Compromise measures, and is an ardent friend of Freedom, Temperance, and every good reform. He is a man of a noble and generous heart, and is worthy of the support of every Free Democrat.

ALPHA.

A SECOND JEFFREYS COME TO JUDGMENT.

The steamer Tropic landed at the wharf on Thursday evening last week, about 4 o'clock, having on board three slaves, Edward, Hannah, and Susan, who had been purchased in the up-country, and were being taken to the South. The matter becoming known, a *habeas corpus* was applied for upon the affidavit of William Troy, a colored man, and they were brought before Judge Flinn yesterday afternoon.

Edward had to be taken to a blacksmith, in order to separate him from his manacles; after which, the blacksmith, and the anvil,

Upon being brought before the Judge, the woman Hannah expressed a wish to be allowed to return to her master on the boat, as she was willing to bring her children to her. The Judge immediately remanded her to the custody of the claimant, without investigation. Judge Flinn asked Hannah if she had the charge of the child Susan, to which she answered that she had. Whereupon the Judge also ordered her back into the custody of the claimant, without examination. Mr. Jolliffe protested against remanding the child back without examination, and said he had said they would take the responsibility, and the two slaves, Hannah and Susan, were taken out of Court, and conveyed over to Covington. Susan appeared to be about four or five years of age, and, as appeared from the testimony, was not related to the woman.

The examination in regard to Edward was then taken up.

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G. BAILEY.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1853.

COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO.

Letters from this county pour in upon us approving of our article in the *Era* of 15th inst. recommending the Independent Democrats to co-operate in electing the "People's Ticket." Some of our friends there, however, are afraid that co-operative action with men of other parties will destroy the Free Democratic character and organization. This fear is natural, and such a result would undoubtedly follow if our friends should give up or deny any of our cherished principles. Our impression is that none of our principles would be repudiated by supporting the "People's Ticket." Let us refer to Massachusetts, where the experiment of coalition with the Democratic for State officers has been tried. The result has been eminently successful, and our friends are manifestly stronger in that State to-day than they ever were before. They have sent Charles Sumner to the Senate, and have a good prospect of electing Henry Wilson governor. They have done more—they have carried a convention to reform the constitution. The question arises, could these results have been achieved if our friends had stood aloof and refused to coalesce with Democrats to carry out State reforms? Manifestly not; and the wisdom of their coalition is vindicated before the world.

Our friends gain nothing by the exhibition of an exclusive or intolerant spirit. We profess to be liberal: let the liberality of our acts vindicate the sincerity of our professions. The People's Convention have nominated good and worthy men as candidates for the legislature. Could they be elected they will be in a position to do something effectual to help the cause along.

Fusion is not the right term to designate this policy. The true word is *co-operation*. *Fusion* implies rather a loss of our identity; *co-operation*, the maintenance of our identity. The Independent Democratic party does not by this policy become *merged* to any other party for good or for evil; it simply agrees to act with other parties, in a given case, for certain purposes in harmony with its principles. The occasion past, it spontaneously resumes its individuality. *

THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

The friends of Slavery insist upon it that the Anti-Slavery agitation has been finally silenced by the election of General Pierce to the Presidency. The assertion is made very confidently: but its constant reiteration induces the suspicion that those who make it are like the boy who whistled to keep his courage up. How can the election of General Pierce, or General any body else, prevent the freedom of thought, or of speech? Did the enemies of Liberty ever ask themselves this question? We are aware that they would, if they could, confer on the President the despotic power over the press and the rostrum, which we have recently seen exercised by the usurping tyrant of the French nation. But the genius of the American People will tolerate no such encroachment on natural right. In particular localities or sections, where some deeply rooted prejudice exists, the mob may interpose, to prevent free discussion; but the mob is growing every day more enlightened, and, consequently, prejudice, passion, and bigotry, are continually losing their influence over it. There was, perhaps, never greater liberty of speech enjoyed in the United States than at the present moment—certainly not since the earlier days of the Republic. The days of martyrdom in the cause of Anti-Slavery are past.

Fifteen or twenty years ago, it was dangerous to discuss Slavery in New England; and in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the free States farther West, it was common to pull down Anti-Slavery printing-offices, pelt Anti-Slavery editors and lecturers with rotten eggs, and burn down Anti-Slavery lecture rooms. Now, New York, Massachusetts, and Ohio, are represented in the Senate by avowed Abolitionists; and all the free States have at one time or another sent Anti-Slavery men to the House of Representatives.

Abolition newspapers are scattered all over the North and West, and one has been established at the seat of Government, having a circulation equal to that of any three journals in the city devoted to the support of Slavery. An Anti-Slavery party, numbering some thousands, has arisen in Kentucky; and perhaps a majority of the people of Missouri are looking forward to the adoption of measures for the abolition of Slavery. Their greatest statesmen, and confessedly the greatest statesman of the South at the present day, is of this party; and has openly avowed his opposition to Slavery and its extension, in the face of his constituents, prior to the election which returned him to the House of Representatives by a majority of one thousand over his competitors.

The question of Slavery is paramount everywhere. In the political meeting, in the religious assembly, in the social circle, the first point to be decided, as the basis and platform of future operations, is the subject of Slavery. "Is he sound on the Slavery question?" is the issue on which every candidate for place, in every corner of the Union, from the lowest municipal officer to the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, has to face his constituents. And what does this fact prove? That Anti-Slavery is dead? Or that it is alive and rampant, presenting an undaunted aspect at every election precinct, and looking into every ballot-box which is opened from Maine to California? This was not the case fifteen, nor even ten years ago. The omnipresence and the paramount importance of the question was less felt five years ago than at the present moment. Yet we are gravely told that the "Abolition agitation" has been put to rest by the election of General Pierce.

Mr. Calhoun announced, in 1839, that Mr. Clay had put down the monster by a single speech in the Senate. At that time the Abolition movement was only as a speck in the political horizon, compared with the gigantic proportions which it has since presented. Again we were told that the annexation of Texas, with the election of Mr. Polk, had finally disposed of the question. But those events only gave greater prominence to the subject; and the Mexican war, which brought large accessions of territory, gave it a political importance which it never had before, in the settlement of the boundaries of Slavery. The Wilmot Proviso was more than once adopted by the House of Representatives; and if its friends failed finally to engraft it on the Territorial bills, they have at least the satisfaction of believing that that provision is unnecessary to keep Slavery out of them. "The Compromise," which was the basis of this "settlement of the Slavery question," enjoyed the reputation of putting Abolitionism to silence for a brief space; but the appearance of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and other simultaneous indications of advancing opinion, soon called for another "settlement," and hence the credit now accorded to General Pierce's election. There is no doubt that if General Scott had been elected, the same merit would have been claimed for him by his friends, and with as good reason.

Abolitionism, Anti-Slavery, Emancipation, or whatever it may be called, is a great principle, a great truth, which neither the violence of mobs, nor the proscription of time-serving Presidents, can put down. Majorities cannot vote its destruction; for, like Antæus, it rises with renewed strength from every overthrow. The old parties have time and again vowed its destruction; but they have only destroyed, or fatally wounded themselves, while the cause of Freedom is continually on the increase. It never was so strong as at the present moment. There was never before so much Anti-Slavery in the country as now, after having been repeatedly "put down" by Whigs and Democrats.

The only effect of Baltimore Platforms and other "finality" measures, is to silence the politicians, office-seekers and office-holders, while the mass of the People remain uncorrupt and unbought by the tempting baits which are held out to mercenary partisans. In fact, such measures, by disgusting honest and independent men, tend to the dissolution of the parties which support them, and to drive their members into the ranks of the Abolitionists. The Free Soil party, or Free Democracy, owes its strength and vitality to the intolerant measures of its opponents in Church and State. The twenty-first rule made its tens of thousands of Anti-Slavery men; but the Compromise measures, and, above all, the Fugitive Slave Law, has made, and is making them, by hundreds of thousands. Providence is thus using the enemies of Freedom as the chief instrumente in the advancement of the cause of truth and right, by the folly of their counsels.

The appearance of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*—a legitimate fruit of the Fugitive Slave Law—has formed a new era in the history of the times. It "holds the mirror up to nature;" and, somehow, contrary to all former experience, has equal fascination for the enemies as for the friends of the great truth it teaches. The cause of this anomaly is perhaps traceable, in great part, to the fact, that it is the first instance in which Southern life and manners have been delineated by the hand of genius. The People are amazed and delighted with a picture of themselves, in many respects pleasing, and in all respects faithful, though its main design is to exhibit to them their greatest deformity. The sensation is new to them; and they are affected, as we may imagine an Indian, in his native wilds, whose ideal of perfection in art is a bow and arrow, would be by the sights of Cuvier's Gallery. But the warm sympathies which the book is calculated to awaken in every human breast have doubtless had much to do in giving it popularity in the South, as elsewhere. The human heart is naturally sympathizes with suffering as the sparks fly upward; and it as naturally visits the oppressor and wrong-doer with the righteous indignation, which is the voice of God within us.

It is true, that Uncle Tom has excited much bitter and angry denunciation of its author and her cause; but the Southern People have read it, and have attempted numerous replies to it in the way of counter fictions, as well as by critical essays. This is a great point gained; and we incline to believe that the replies will be productive of no much practical good as the work of Mrs. Stowe itself. All the replies, whether fictitious or critical, attempt to show, not only that the allegations of Abolitionists as to the abuses of the system are false, but that in reality it is practically much better, more humane, and more regardful of the rights and welfare of the slaves than the laws on their statute books make it. Now, there are no people in the world so well qualified to judge of the truth of these defensive statements as the Southern people themselves. If they are true—if families are not separated, or but rarely—if husbands and wives, parents and children, are habitually separated by sale to the traders, by emigration, and by the operation of law which requires the sale at auction of negroes, as of other property—if the laws against education are not practically enforced, by which men called Christian are denied the privilege of reading the Bible—if these and many other gross enormities are not practiced, why are they canctioned? Why are not the laws tolerating them repealed? Why is not marriage instituted by law among slaves? Why do legislative bodies assuming to represent a Christian people, outlaw, forbid, annul matrimony, and thereby give rise to a universal system of concubinage? Why is it made lawful to separate forever, men and women who have, as far as in them lies, "agreed to live together after God's holy ordinance"—and why may their offspring be torn from them, even in infancy, by the ruthless hand of avarice? Why is not education encouraged, instead of being prohibited? Are the Southern People ambitious of maintaining a barbarous code, which they are too civilized to enforce?

But no class of readers understand half so well as those of the South, that the whitewashing apologies for Slavery, to which we have referred, are utterly destitute of truth. To deny that the separation of families is common in the South—that it takes place as often as any large family emigrates—often in two or three instances for each such family—that everytime a trader makes up a gang for the Southern market, he sundere the family tie, often in half a dozen cases—requires the hardihood of a pensioned or needy scribbler. No true gentleman would make such statements.

We admit that in cases where the planters of Virginia or the Carolinas emigrate to the Southwest, there is generally a disposition to avoid the separation of families, by sale, or exchange; but nevertheless these cruel separations are made "in the best of families." There are few who will make any considerable sacrifice for such a purpose; and there are many who will make none at all; for the law invests every freeman—no matter how abandoned his character, with the princely—with the Papal prerogative, of separating "those whom God has joined together." Can it be believed that bad men will not go as far as the law allows them? Do not all history and all experience prove that they will not only go to the verge of the law, but that they will set all laws, human and divine, at defiance, in order to gratify the passions of avarice, lust, and revenge? Yet the defenders of Slavery are forced upon the preposterous assumption that the worst of mankind are better than the laws under which they live, and will not abuse the tyrannical power which is conferred upon them.

Still the defenders of Slavery are doing much good. They deny the allegations of the Abolitionists, and thereby condemn the practices of which they deny the existence. This reduces the question to an issue of fact, and the Southern people are the best jury that could be empannelled to try it—a jury of the vicinage. Formerly it was maintained—it is now in many places—that negroes are such degraded beings that they are incapable of suffering in consequence of a severance of family ties; that it is their nature to herd together like brutes, and no injury is done them by selling them away from their wives and children. It was asserted, in like manner, that they were incapable of moral and intellectual improvement, and that efforts to improve them only serve to render them discontented and disobedient. It is a great concession which the champions of Slavery have made, in surrendering these revolting positions. They now admit the negro within the pale of civilization—admit that they have higher, and that the masters have high moral and Christian obligations to perform towards their dependants. Here is a standard set up by the South itself, and every departure from it—every instance of cruelty, of the denial of education, of families separated—is condemned by themselves, and they are left without a shadow of excuse. The Southern readers of the apologies and defences of Slavery will thus be set to thinking as effectually by those works as by Uncle Tom's Cabin itself, and perhaps under circumstances more favorable to a just judgment in the matter; for, we'll-a-saying his friends, when praising wine, it has this advantage, that it will be stimulated to resist the intrusion of unwelcome truth into the mind, from a foreign, and, as they believe, unfriendly source; while, on the other hand, in perusing the replies to Uncle Tom, every ingenuous and intelligent mind will not fail to contrast his own experience with the assertions of the author; and the reflection will be natural and inevitable, that a system which can only be defended by palpable falsehoods and suppressions of fact cannot be founded in justice and truth.

Such is the present state of the Slavery question. It has now twice the vitality in the North that it has had for years past. The appearance of Uncle Tom has broached discussion in the South on a scale, and with a promise of results, which could not have been dreamed of three years ago. One of the old parties has struck upon the rock of truth, and made a complete shipwreck; while the other, by the collision, has been crippled almost beyond the hope of again "righting." There are but two bases of parties in this country, viz: Freedom on the one hand, and Slavery on the other. All other issues are mere side issues, insignificant and transient; and all divisions and subdivisions of parties—as Hunkers, Progressives, Hards, Softs, Whigs, or Democrats—are really more or less connected by their relative position to Slavery than by any of the pretended causes of antagonism. The day cannot be distant when the subdivisions of party will be again fused into two great parties—one in favor of, and the other against, Emancipation; or, what would be more desirable, and not improbable the great parties themselves will only differ as to the best means of putting an end to Slavery.

G.

NEW BOOKS.

The *Era* has thus far proved an admirable introduction to successful authorship. In addition to the already published volumes of its correspondence, we are happy to mention that Grace Greenwood's Letters from Europe are in the press of Ticknor & Co., of Boston, and that a second series of Alice Carey's Clovernook Sketchee is forthcoming.

Another writer for the *Era*—Lucy Larcom—has in the press of J. P. Jewett & Co., of Boston, a unique and altogether original little volume, entitled "Similitudes from the Sea-side and the Prairie"—a series of prose poems, evincing delicate fancy and great beauty of thought and expression.

J. G. W.

THE LITERATURE OF FREEDOM.

The enterprising publishers of Uncle Tom's Cabin, and the "Key" thereof—J. P. Jewett & Co., of Boston—are still doing good service to the cause of Freedom and Christian Progress, in their particular department. Among their late issues may be mentioned the admirable writings of Judge JAY; the Speeches of JOSHUA R. GIDDINGS—a noble volume, in itself a history of the Anti-Slavery struggle for the last ten years; SUMNER's White Slavery in the Barbary States—a beautifully-illustrated edition of that fine historical satire; and Lydia Maria Child's new work, the Life of ISAAC T. HOPPER—altogether not less readable and interesting piece of biography which has ever issued from the American press. It is a simple picture of a noble life, devoted to the welfare of others. We knew Isaac T. Hopper well; and we recognise a perfect likeness of the genial, brave old man on every page. It is a book which the Society of Friends, especially—Orthodox and Hicksite—would do well to study. Disowned by both—by one for his theology, and by the other for his active humanity—it will be seen that he was favored to survive it all, to pursue his labors of love with unabated zeal, and to die, at last, happily and in peace, with messages of love, to those who had cast him out of their communion, on his lips.

The same publishers have in press the "Life and Speeches of Hon. ROBERT RANTOUL, Jr.," the ablest and worthiest exponent of Democratic principles since the days of Jefferson. His arguments on the constitutionality of the Fugitive Slave Laws are worth the price of the entire work. The scholar, the patriot, the student of constitutional law, the advocate of universal education, of freedom, temperance, and the abolition of capital punishment—in short, the friends of all national reforms will find in this volume a text-book.

J. G. W.

A MODERN DEMOCRAT.

Ex-Senator Dickinson, of New York, has written a letter of a column in length, apologetic and explanatory of his speech made in the Senate in 1847. On that occasion he stated what he conceived to be the opinion of his constituents regarding the question of Slavery, and from the general tenor of his remarks he concurred with them entirely, in believing Slavery to be a moral and political evil, which should not be further extended. He avowed his readiness to vote for the Wilmot Proviso, with or without special instructions from the Legislature, since he well understood the wishes of his constituents. In his letter he says:

"Being a believer in and advocate for, the doctrine of instruction—which up to that time had been only employed to uphold the principles of the Constitution—I indicated my willingness on a future and suitable occasion to vote as the Legislature had instructed, without any repetition of its direction: but subsequent more deliberate reflection and further reflection, admonished me that I should best discharge my duty to the Constitution and the Union, by disregarding such instructions altogether, and although they were often afterwards repeated, I disregarded them accordingly."

The English of this contemptible subterfuge is, that he found it safer to obey the behests of the South than of his immediate constituents. He had always "been a believer in and advocate of the right of instruction—which up to that time had been only employed to uphold the principles of the Constitution"—that is, until he employed it to instruct Mr. Dickinson to vote for a measure, which in the same speech he professed to believe constitutional and proper! Oh, the humiliation, the moral degration, which Northern dough-faces have to submit to. And then to make nothing by it, and be snubbed by the Washington *Union* in the bargain—it is too bad.

G.

For the National Era.

SUMMER BY THE LAKE SIDE.

I.—NOON.

White clouds, whose shadows haunt the deep,
Light mists, whose soft embraces keep
The sunshine on the hills asleep!

O! isles of calm!—O! dark, still wood!
And stiller skies that overbrood
Your rest with deeper quietude!

O! shapes and hues, dim beckoning, through
You mountain gaps, my longing view
Beyond the purple and the blue—

To stillor sea and greener land,
And softer lights and airs more bland,
And skies—the hollow of God's hand!

Transfused through you, O! mountain friends!
With naine your solemn spirit blends,
And life no more hath separate ends.

I read each misty mountain sign,
I know the voice of wave and pine,
And I am yours, and ye are mine.

Life's burdens fall, its discords cease,
I lapse into the calm repose of Slave-
Of Nature's own exceeding peace.

O! welcome calm of heart and mind!
As calm yon fir-tree's motionless rind
To leave a tenderer growth behind.

So fall the weary years away;
A child again, my head I lay
Upon the lap of this sweet day.

This western wind hath Lethean powers,
Yon noon-day cloud nepenthe showers,
The lake is white with lotus flowers!

Even Duty's voice is faint and low,
And slumberous Conscience, waking slow,
Forgets her blotted scroll to show.

The Shadow which pursues us all,
Whose ever-nearing step appal,
Whose voice we hear behind us call—

That Shadow blends with mountain gray,
It speaks but what the light waves say—
Death walks apart from fear to-day!

Rocked on her breast, these pines and I
Alike on Nature's love rely;
And equal seems to live or die.

Assured that He whose presence fills
With light the spaces of those hills,
No evil to His creatures wills.

The simple faith remains that He
Will do, whatever that may be,
The best alike for man and tree.

What mosses over one shall grow,
What light and life the other know,
Unanxious, leaving him to show.

II.—EVENING.

Yon mountain's side is black with night,
While, broad-orb'd, o'er its gleaming crown,
The moon, slow-rooling into sight,
On the hushed inland sea looks down.

How start to light the clustering isles,
Each silver hemmed! How sharply show
The shadows of their rocky piles,
And tree tops, in the wave below!

How far and strange the mountains seem,
Dim-looming through the pale, still light!
The vague, vast grouping of a dream,
They stretch into the solemn night.

Beneath, lake, wood, and peopled vale,
Hushed by that presence grand and grave,
Are silent, save the cricket's wail,
And low response of leaf and wave.

Fair scenes! whereto the Day and Night
Make equal boast, I leave you soon,
What time before the eastern light
The pale ghost of the setting moon

Shall hide behind yon rocky spines,
And the young archer, Morn, shall break
His arrows on the mountain pines,
And, golden-sandalled, walk the lake!

Farewell! Around this smiling bay
Gay-hearted health, and Life in bloom,
With lighter steps than mine, may stray
In radiant summers yet to come.

But none shall more regretful leave
These waters and these hills than I;
Or, distant, fonder dream love eve
Or dawn is painting wave and sky.

How rising moons shine sad and mild
On wooded isle and silvering bay;
Or setting suns beyond the piled
And purple mountains lead the day;

Nor laughing girl, nor bearding boy,
Nor full-pulsed manhood, lingering here,
Shall add, to life's abounding joy,
The charmed repose to suffering dear.

Still waits kind Nature to impart
Her choicest gifts to such as gain
An entrance to her loving heart
Through the sharp discipline of pain.

Forever from the'Hand that takes
One blessing from us others fall;
And, soon or late, our Father makes
His perfect recompense to all!

Oh! watched by Silence and the Night,
And folded in the strong embrace
Of the great mountains, with the light
Of the sweet heavens upon thy face,

Lake of the Northland! keep thy dower
Of beauty still, and while above
Thy solemn mountains speak of power,
Be thou the mirror of God's love.

J. G. W.

HOW IS CUBA TO BE ANNEXED?

The Minister to Spain, Mr. Soulé, in his famous fillibuster speech in the Senate at the last session of Congress, distinctly repudiated the thought of purchasing Cuba; and the Cuban Junta at New York, in a recent manifesto, took the same ground, alleging that the people of that island would not degrade themselves by becoming the subjects of barter and sale, like so many slaves or cattle. "How," exclaims the author of the document referred to, "could a civilized people, worthy of liberty, and striving to obtain it, submit, and seek as a slave a change of master, and degrade ourselves so far as to solicit that there may be impressed upon our brow the seal of the same Slavery whose chains we are endeavoring to break, without showing that we had descended to the condition of the most abject barbarism?" Now, this affectation of virtuous indignation is decidedly rich, in view of the efforts of Mr. Polk's Administration to purchase the island, by the offer of one hundred millions of dollars for it—a negotiation seriously carried on with the consent and co-operation of the Cuban Patriots. Purchase was regarded, until recently, as the legitimate mode of working out the "manifest destiny" of the Cubans; and the pompous declamation in which the exploded scheme of purchase is now denounced and repudiated, can only excite a contemptuous smile in the observer of passing events. The Washington *Union* pretends to swallow this piece of Spanish grasconade, and manifests becoming sympathy with the noble sentiments of the Patriots. It is scarcely twelve months since the same *Union* was the advocate of purchasing Cuba.

The plan of purchasing the island being thus laid aside as utterly unworthy of its brave and free people, the editor of the same paper inquires, "What, then, do they desire? What do they expect?" He suffers the head of the Junta to answer for himself, in the same bombastic style. "Prepared with sufficient forces, within and without the late, to revolutionize it by force of arms, we, the sons of Cuba, aspire to that idea as the only one which can give us honor and glory in acquiring the title to sovereignty in the rank of nations." The meaning of this is, that the Patriots look for "material aid" to the people or Government of the United States. As to the Government, the *Union* says: "What our policy may be, we do not pretend to indicate; but we think we understand the characters of the men who now manage the helm of State well enough to be assured that no step will be taken or countenanced by our Government for the acquisition of Cuba, that is not strictly consistent with all our treaty obligations, with sound international law, and in accordance with the honor and dignity of Cuba." If the Government sets up to this pledge of its organ in good faith, and suffer the Cubans to depend upon their own efforts, aided by only such clandestine support as outlawed fillibusterism can render, the chances of freedom or independence for the Lone Star are in a blue way. It being the acknowledged duty of our Government, and the interest of Spain, England, and France, to frustrate the attempts of individuals from this country upon the peace and loyalty of the island, we see no possible chance of a successful revolution.

In the mean time it is said that Spain has entered into a treaty with England, and perhaps France, for the abolition of Slavery. We fear that there is little reliance to be placed in the statement. It may have arisen out of the effort recently made to secure liberty to the class called emancipados, who have been brought to the island since the treaty of 1822 for the suppression of the slave trade. That trade has, we believe, been carried on upon a large scale, with the connivance of the Cuban authorities, which has rarely been actuated by a higher sense of honor and humanity than prevails in a band of pirates. If the truth could be ascertained, the emancipados would doubtless be found to constitute a large portion of the negro population, and, of course, are entitled to freedom according to the laws of Spain. But the authorities of the island have reduced their number, by false registrations and other fraudulent devices, to a few thousands.

We would deprecate the admission of Cuba into the Union as a slaveholding State, thereby increasing the arrogant and overbearing Slave Power; but in other respects liberty and humanity would probably be gainers by that event, in the suppression of the African slave trade. But, on the other hand, the American slave trade would be substituted for it, which is equally infamous and criminal, though less destructive of life; and it would be attended with consequences more favorable to the final triumph of freedom and civilization. The importation from Africa is almost exclusively of men; and we have been informed by a highly intelligent gentleman from the West Indies, that plantations of fifty to five hundred slaves, are frequently to be seen with not more than a dozen women upon them—sometimes not more than one! The gloomy horrors of such a society can be better imagined than described, and the man who could be induced to defend or apologize for it, should be banished to Botany Bay. Slavery, as it exists in Cuba, is not a question about which honest men may differ. It is one of those matters about which all respectable people must be of one opinion: while nothing short of scoundrelism can hold up its head on the other side.

The danger is, if annexed to the Union, the planters from this country might find it to their interest to continue the Spanish system of carrying none but men to Cuba. In that event, the business of slave-breeding in Virginia would be established on a firm basis, and would probably pay better than raising tobacco. Has not Congress the power to regulate this growing branch of the internal commerce? Admitting that the power to regulate does not imply the power to prohibit the domestic slave trade, it is still clear that Congress may interpose to prevent the separation of the sexes, in the piratical manner of the African trade. If the present Pro-Slavery Administration is bent on the acquisition of Cuba and other tropical regions, by fair means or foul, and the Northern people are wanting in the patriotism and virtue which are requisite for resisting the mania for more territory, then we shall insist upon the exercise of this regulating power in Congress, to prevent the separation of the sexes and families of the slaves, and as far as possible to discourage the disgraceful and infamous occupation of slave-breeding for the market. We should even hope to have the co-operation of all honorable men in the South to this extent. Certainly, high-minded Virginians are not willing to see the Old Dominion become as famous for breeding negro slaves for the Southern market as Kentucky is for her breeds of horses and cattle.

G.

LATEST FROM CALIFORNIA.

The steamer Northern Light, from San Juan, arrived at New York on Sunday. She brings $200,000 in gold. A large meeting had been held in San Francisco in favor of the immediate construction of the Pacific rail road. Nearly one-half of the town of Sonora had been destroyed by fire.

Politics were were waxing warm in California, and several prominent Democrats were canvassing the State in opposition to the re-election of Governor Bigler.

The Indians in Oregon have commenced an insurrection against the whites. Several tribes had united and commenced a war of extermination in Paogno river valley, and many had been killed. An expedition under Gen. Lane had gone to the scene of action. *

NEW YORK.—A Union paper is to be started immediately at Albany to support the State and National Administrations. It will be conciliatory in its tone, and will advocate the ticket headed by Robert Kelly for Comptroller. The disunion of the Democracy in New York troubles the politicians greatly. The President of the Hunker Syracuse Convention declined to meet with the Barnburners because he feared his life would be in danger. John Van Buren thereupon calls his wing the "*uninterrified* Democracy."

The *Courier* and *Enquirer* gives the following definitions of the several factions, and will serve to show how "the party" is split up:

"*Hard Shell Hunker.*—A Democrat who voted for Cass, stands by the resolutions of '98, curses Van Buren, and utterly refuses to compromise or fraternization with the Barnburners of '48.

"*Soft Shell Hunker.*—A Democrat who voted for Cass; deplores the division in the party; admits that a Barnburner may be a Democrat, and is disposed to forget the past, and commune with the opposing faction.

"*Hard Shell Barnburner.*—A Democrat who still insists upon standing on the fragments of the Buffalo platform; sweare that Cass distracted the party in '48: adores Van Buren; reads the *Evening Post*, and becomes rabid at the name or presence of a Hunker.

"*Soft Shell Barnburner.*—A Democrat who professes attachment to the principles of the Buffalo platform, but is disposed to regard the Compromise as a finality: thinks there was some excuse for Cass's presumption in '48, and will not object to a friendly drink with a Hunker.

"The 'Adamantines' or 'Nationals' is the name recently applied to, or assumed by a portion, at least, of the 'Hards,' who, it is said, have pledged themselves to uphold the Fugitive Slave Law, in addition to making a steady opposition to any connection with the Barnburners."

The Whigs, it is said, are almost as badly disorganized as the Democrats, and a split among them is apprehended. In the mean time, the Independent Democracy adhere steadily to their candidates and platform. *

THE NEW YORK BARNBURNERS.

The resolutions of the "Softs" at the Syracuse Convention, which we gave last week, were not unanimous. There were one dissentient voice—one "unterrified" Democrat among them. PRESTON KING vindicated his manliness by expressing his dissent to the Slavery resolutions. A letter in the *Evening Post* says:

"You will have observed that when the resolutions of the Syracuse Convention of the "unterrified Democracy" were put Preston King rose, and said that he dissented totally from that part of them which related to Slavery; the rest he as fully and most cordially approved. It would have done you good to see the respect with which the Democrats listened to the rebuke received. Imagine all the audience motionless, all eyes fixed on the speaker, and a silence pervading the assembly so complete that you might have heard every sound in the street. It was a demonstration of the extraordinary reverence which men have for sincerity, consistency, and courage."

John Van Buren is reported to have said:

"A word as to the resolutions. I have to say that I have had no time to read over carefully those resolutions, therefore, I voted neither for or against them. I am not prepared to say with my friend from St. Lawrence [Hon. Preston King,] that I am prepared to discent from a portion of them; my own impression is that I shall not. [Applause.] My impression is that these resolutions are simply a re-affirmance of the Baltimore platform. I have over and over proved that those platforms were constructed, that I stand unreservedly on that platform. [Cries of 'good.'] I go further, and say that it is unwise for any man who believes with me, that Slavery is a great evil, to agitate the question. I think it is settled—whether wisely or unwisely—it is settled, and should not be agitated. [Applause.] I think, further, that those who have sworn to the Constitution which requires us to surrender slaves; and that, like every other provision, must be faithfully and cheerfully lived up to. [Applause.] I do not stop now to consider whether the present law in force is constitutional or not. I simply say that the constitutional requisition is entirely clear, and it is the duty of the Democratic party, who are the true friends of the Constitution, and the actual adherents of the Government, to live up faithfully and firmly to the provisions of the Constitution."

The Barnburners arrogate to themselves the title of "Radical Democrats," or Democrats from principle, as distinguished from the Hunkers, or Democrats for the loaves and fishes of office. We regret that this characteristic will no longer distinguish them. In 1848 they professed to stand on principle, and united with the Free Democracy at Buffalo; but in 1851 they "caved in," and united with the Hunkers to elect a Compromise President; and to-day they stand upon the Baltimore platform, and resolve to put down the agitation of the Slavery question. The *Evening Star* of this city, a kind of demi-semi-official organ of the President, in its issue of 20th inst., exults over this defection of the Barnburners from the platform of 1848, "as it proves the eradication of all Free-Soilism from the great Democratic party of the United States." This article from the *Star* is instructive, and the Barnburners may behold in it as in a mirror, how they have been fooled by the leaders, and tricked out of their principles. We copy it below. It is entitled, "The Last Important Event in the History of Politics in the United States:"

"The action of the recent Democratic Convention, at Syracuse, New York, upon the Fugitive Slave Law, &c., is most important, as it proves the eradication of all Free-Soilism from the great Democratic party of the United States. In 1847, even the New York Hards were Provisoists. In 1848, under the lead of Senator Daniel S. Dickinson, they abandoned that position, being first, of the North, to assume the true constitutional platform upon this question. Before *their* eyes were opened, the South, in Congress, very generally believed that the Union would hardly last another decade. Subsequently they entered into a fierce contest over the whole North, fighting the battles of the Constitution under such odds as would have overwhelmed less determined men. They fairly *earned* the victory of this year, without distinction of party. Their example paved the way for the conversion of Messrs. Webster and Fillmore in 1850, who, abandoning their former Provisoism, subsequently repaid the cordiality with which the South welcomed them and their friends into the ranks of the defenders of the rights of the States.

"About the same time, the present Chief Magistrate of the United States fought his gallant battle against Abolitionism in New Hampshire, wherein he rescued well nigh his whole political party there from the Anti-Slavery influence, which had well nigh ruined them, when he (General Pierce) reached home from his service in Mexico. His exertions and achievements in that political contest gave him the Keys of the Democratic Convention, to the extent to which it was manifested towards him in the last Presidential election. While he was re-organizing the Democracy in N. Hampshire after this fashion, they were Secretary of State, an ardent Hunker Democrat, essayed to do the same by the Democracy of New York, where, however, Anti-Slavery influences had gained a much stronger foothold in the party. In the State Convention of 1850 and 1851, Governor Marcy held out the olive branch to the Barnburners, offering to unite with them on equal terms, on the basis of forgetting and forgiving past injuries, and the Hunkers, Barnburners, and those of his immediate friends, the Barnburners were brought to the point of agreeing to this arrangement, though they refused to pass resolutions not to vote for any man, who was opposed to the Fugitive Slave Law. They nevertheless agreed to agitate the Slavery question no more. This promise they kept religiously; the Abolition journals formerly acting with them only refusing to be governed by this agreement. Subsequently, they kept faith with Marcy in the matter of siding to elect Pierce. The whole Hunker Democracy of New York, prior to the Presidential election, endorsed the propriety of the union with them, though some of the very nitra Hards demanded, as a surety of their good faith, that they should endorse the Baltimore platform and the Fugitive Slave Law especially, without qualification or reservation. Pierce, being elected, kept faith with them—in turn, giving them a share of the offices, thereby bestowed on them, conformably to the Baltimore platform and the Fugitive Slave Law.

"But the 'very Hards' flared up, and complained because so many offices were given to that wing of the party, and because it had been felt it to be his duty to keep faith with them—otherwise, he could not seek them to keep faith with the Baltimore platform. The very Hards set up the cry that they were proscribed. In so doing, they conferred a benefit on the South of incalculable value to the future of the integrity of the Union; as thus they have created among the Barnburners a sympathy for the Administration in being opposed, because of the frank and kind attitude it has held towards themselves. This impression had much very much to do with the resolutions recently adopted at the Soft Convention. They embrace all the South asks, and are pledges as emphatic as any given by any politicians of any party north of the Potomac. The Southern papers are already proclaiming entire satisfaction with them. Up to this time many have questioned whether the Barnburners would abandon their Anti-Slavery positions in compliance with their pledges to Marcy and the demand of Pierce. All see that they have done so. The victory of these two distinguished gentlemen is the most triumphant ever obtained in American politics. The Barnburners have a large portion of all the papers, and a like proportion of the popular Democratic speakers of the North. One and all, they have thus pledged themselves henceforth to sustain the Compromise and the Fugitive Slave Law, in spirit as well as to the letter. There is now, therefore, no such thing as Free-Soilism in the regular Democratic organization there. The Softs have kept their pledges, for not acting with them now, after they have marched up in solid column and pledged themselves by the most emphatic test ever asked of any party, to the support of the Compromise. So far as the moral and practical political effect of their act is concerned, it matters little whether they are sincere or not: though we credit them with an honest purpose. Such a man as may not be sincere, will be at least prevented hereafter from wielding the slightest influence in behalf of Anti-Slavery measures or views. This grand result shows, conclusively, the wisdom of Gov. Marcy's original design with the Barnburners, and of the policy of the Administration with reference to them. The act of Marcy secured Pierce the votes of New York, Ohio, Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Maine, neither of which States could have been carried without their votes. The act of Pierce in keeping faith with them under a storm of opposition in and out of his party, in every quarter, has thus ended in their formal and final abandonment of Free-Soilism. They number quite half of the whole Democracy of the non-slaveholding States, except in Pennsylvania and New Hampshire.

The tone of this article is not to be mistaken, and it bears internal evidence that it emanates from the Administration. Pierce gave some of the offices to the Barnburners, "though only on the express condition of future fidelity to the Baltimore Platform and the Fugitive Slave Law!" Their creed was made for them, an adherence to it was made a *sine qua non* before offices would be bestowed upon them! It thus that Hunkerism is triumphant, and the Administration congratulates itself upon the achievement, "the eradication of all Free-Soilism from the great Democratic party of the United States."

The game has thus far been successful—the leaders have received their reward—the party is committed to the support of the Fugitive Slave Law, and the suppression of agitation. But we apprehend the People will have a word to say to the endorsement of this platform. They have been tricked out of their votes in electing Mr. Pierce; it remains to be seen whether or not they will sustain him, now that he has thrown away the mask. Those who acted with the Barnburners in 1848, in opposition to the extension of Slavery, may here be need confidence in them will cling to them among the apologists and partisans of the Compromise Measures, which were so bitterly denounced by some of that faction, and with the Hunkers, whose principle is their interest.

The Madison county (N. Y.) *Whig*, thus expresses its opinion of platforms:

"A study of the various platforms of the last six years must destroy one's confidence in them. Hasty conclusions, if none are made, well conjectured. They are a cunning and dishonest scheme to catch votes, and they compromise this principle and barter away that in one, and dodge that question, to conciliate a squad of voters, who are with that party while has the heaviest purses, the biggest bottle, and the fattest offices. They are got up to answer some immediate selfish end. To do this, they will cry 'Proviso' one day, the Fugitive Slave Law the next—shout for the Buffalo platform one day, and join the Hunkers in a fight for the spoils the next.

"Away, then, with these platforms. We have some nobler work before us this year than to read the repudiated platform of dead parties—something more worthy freemen than to chin to mere party. There are issues to be met this year, which parties will not touch. Moral and humane questions are before us for a decision and men will not shirk the responsibility. Theory is not for platforms, but for honest, independent, God-fearing men, who love Christian principles. And that cry will be heard, if not this year, yet before long. May that day hasten at hand! Mere platforms are the traps of demagogues to lure the people of their principle and we want none of them—except for

CASSIUS M. CLAY IN KENTUCKY.

We learn from an address "To the People of Kentucky," issued by C. M. Clay on the 2d instant, that a portion of the slaveholders of Rockcastle county met on the 27th ult.: appointed R. G. Williams Chairman, and W. H. Kirtley Secretary, and put forth a series of resolutions publicly censuring him. Mr. Clay gives the following statements as the moving cause of these resolutions:—

"Whilst I was attending the Anti-Slavery Christ's Church, at the Glade, in Madison county, established under the auspices of John G. Fee and W. E. Fisk, native Kentuckians, news came that A. G. W. Parker, a native of Tennessee, and now a citizen of Kentucky and a voter of Rockcastle county—employed as a colporteur of the Home Missionary Society—was in jail on a charge of 'having attempted to persuade a slave to leave his master:' and that the bail was assessed by the Judge at one thousand dollars for the principal, and the same for the surety. Rumors also came that upright slaveholders had banded together in a written article, that they would prevent, by violence, Messrs. Fee and Fisk from preaching in Rockcastle county, where they had built a church and instituted an appointment. It was also understood that Parker denied the charge of his accusers.

"I took a friend and went to Rockcastle, and in the Mount Vernon jail I found two prisoners, committed on the charge of persuading slaves to leave their masters. The man named Shiflet was said to be of bad character, and a habitual drunkard. I gave twenty dollars to his wife and children, who are destitute, and five dollars to the jailer for his benefit, but refused to bail him. The other man, Parker, I learned was a citizen of unimpeachable character, a long time a member in good standing in the Methodist Church, and that lately he had become a member of the Free Church, and a colporteur. After I had read him, in the presence of his jailer, Mr. Fee's letter, he said that late in the night, after he had gone to bed, he was awakened by a slave of J. Newcum, who said his master had sold him, and he had run away, and wished to know how he could escape into the Free States. Parker refused to give him the information, and the slave went away. After a while he returned, and pressed his suit so urgently that Parker told him to stay at a certain place, and he would see his master, and whether he had sold him or not. The slave went off, and Parker went to bed, when several men entered and seized him, and took him to jail. He denied, positively, all intent to induce the slave to leave his master, and avowed his determination not willingly to violate the laws of his country.

"Now, if this be true, Parker has violated no law—neither the 'higher law' nor the 'lower law'—as it will no doubt turn out when he comes before an impartial jury of his peers for, not for from 'attempting to induce a slave to *leave* his master,' he attempted to induce him to *stand*, after he had left him!"

Under these circumstances, Mr. Clay was induced to bail Parker, though language was used to prevent the Judge from taking bail. He says: "When Parker was brought into the court-house, Messrs. Kirtley and Smith, citizens, and Jones, the county attorney, contended that the prisoner was committed under the 3d section, 92d chapter, 2d volume, 924 Revised Statutes, concerning slaves, &c., and should give bond for his good behaviour, or to leave the State. I contended, on the part of the prisoner, that he was committed under the 2d section, for a higher crime and penalty than the 3d section, and that he claimed a fair trial of his accusers. The Judge said that the warrant was issued on the charge of 'attempting to persuade' the slave to leave his master, and that the testimony was to the same effect. As he himself had made the commitment, he was the best judge of the offence, and would insist on the highest penalty of the 2d section, as in duty bound; that a violation of the 3d section, being suspected of an attempt to persuade, was simply a misdemeanor, requiring security for good behaviour or to leave the State."

Mr. Clay well argues that "under this section the liberty of seven hundred thousand of the people of this Commonwealth is insidiously endangered. Whenever a man is true enough to the instincts of nature to refuse to become the watch-dog of Slavery, some slaveholder—and they are not wanting in that virtue—has only to swear that he 'suspects' him of an intent to induce a slave to leave his master, and the upon devil is thrown into prison to die, or forced to sign the warrant of his own exile from his native land;" and it is therefore to be expected that any one who becomes surety for a person so charged will receive their "highest censure." Mr. Clay says the Free Democratic party of Kentucky intend to "abide by the laws of the State, and yet make, under the Constitution, and laws, an unconpromising war upon Slavery;" that he left "one man in jail because of his *bad* character," and told Parker, in presence of the court, that he would withdraw his suretyship if he "had reason to believe that he (Parker) at any time had violated or intended to violate the laws." He pays a merited tribute to the zeal and devotion of John G. Fee, a worthy representative of the Christian faith, by the exhibition of a Christian's life.

The Address of Mr. Clay is like him—fearless, outspoken, impetuous, almost fierce, in its defiance of an institution which permits "one-twentieth of the people [of Kentucky] to say to the other nineteen-twentieths, You shall not 'meddle' with an 'institution' which is supported by the ballot-box and cartridge-box!"—which ostracizes the non-slaveholders "from all places of civil and political power and profit—which drives us into the mountains and wastes and forests, and exiles us from home—which monopolizes the land, and puts an eternal barrier between us and manufactures and commerce—which builds up among us a worse than heathen caste, embittering all the social intercourse of life—which dooms us to isolated effort and consequent ignorance by unattainable schools—which saps our manhood, and damns our consciences, in maintaining, by the vote and the sword, this greatest of all wrongs! Is not all this enough? And now, when we say we have borne all this, and we in our weakness call for the *Bible*—for that consolation of promise in a better world, which the 'accursed institution' has denied us here—you will 'suppress' it, will you?"

A perusal of the Address of Mr. Clay will cause the candid reader to pass a mental resolution of "censure" upon the prosecutors of Parker, instead of his defenders. Reformers, we fear, sometimes forget that charity is a Christian virtue, and should not be forgotten in a demand for justice and denunciation of wrong. The threat of an appeal to arms should be the last resort. The provocation in this case we know was great; but fierce and indiscriminate denunciation, while it convinces no one, may stir up the bitter waters of enmity, and retard the cause it was intended to advance. However much we may covet a martyr's crown, we should not needlessly provoke a martyr's fate.

The appeal of Cassius M. Clay will not be lost upon Kentuckians. The descendants of Daniel Boone love justice and bravery, and may be safely calculated on to take the side of the weak against the powerful oppressor. *

THE LATE ELECTIONS.—Vermont foots up for the Legislature, as nearly as we can gather from the returns received, as follows: Whigs 95, democrats 87, and free-soilers 32. The free-soilers hold the balance of power numerically. A Governor, several State officers, and a U. S. Senator, are to be elected. In Maine we have returns of 127 members, leaving 24 to be heard from, as follows: Whigs 59, democrats 58, and free-soilers 10. Last year, whigs 62, democrats 84, and free soilers 5. The whigs and Morrill democrats are thought to be triumphant; and Morrill, many say, will be elected U. S. Senator. Pitt Fessenden (free-soil whig) senator. *Balt. Sun.*

INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENTS.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Warren County.—A Convention of the Free Democracy was held at Pittsfield, on the 27th ult., George Stoolfire, Esq., Chairman; George Abbott, Secretary. Resolutions were adopted, favoring the Pittsburgh Platform, the Maine Law, and opposing the Fugitive Slave Law. The following, among others, were adopted:

"That we want no pledges from our candidates; for if, from past knowledge, we cannot trust them *without* a pledge, we cannot, then, trust them *with* a pledge.

"That we recommend to members of our party to read and sustain particularly, our own party press.

"That we will vote for no man for any office, who is not a well-known supporter of our principles.

"The Convention nominated as follows:

"For State Senator—William F. Clark, of Mercer county; for State Assembly—Daniel Lott, of Warren county; for Surveyor—Yates Pond, of Sugar Grove; for County Commissioner—Joseph Morrison, of Deerfield; for County Auditor—Joseph Taylor, of Pine Grove.

"On motion, the following named gentlemen were made a permanent committee for one year: L. H. Pratt, Tompkins Loucks, William Smith, Joseph Hays, and Nathan M. Cady."

NEW YORK.

Chautauque County.—A County Convention was held at Sinclearville, on 3d inst., Harman Covey, Chairman; J. A. Cramer, Secretary. Nominations were made for Superintendent of Poor, Justice of Sessions, and Coroner; and Nehemiah Merrick, of Sherman, was nominated for Member of Assembly in the first Assembly district: and for the second, Samuel Foote, of Ellicott.

Resolved, That this Convention concur in the action of the State Convention lately held at Syracuse, that the resolutions there adopted breathe the right spirit, that the men there nominated are of the right stamp, and we will heartily support them.

For County Committee—Dr. A. Rhodes, A. S. Brown, and N. Putnam.

INDIANA.

Lafayette, Sept. 15, 1853.—At a meeting of the Free Democracy of Tippecanoe county, at the City Council Chamber, the following ticket was nominated unanimously:

For Reporter of Decisions of Supreme Court—F. W. Gordon, M.D.; for Clerk—M. L. Pierce; for Auditor—Thos. Bell; for Recorder—A. F. Morty; for Commissioner—Andrew Hoover; for Coroner—W. V. R. Peck.

Dr. Gordon is the able editor of that sterling weekly, the *Temperance Chart*, of Indianapolis. The county ticket is composed of our best men, and will obtain the undivided support of the party besides commanding a respectable vote from the other ranks.

The Free Democracy of this county are now much stronger than they ever were before, and are steadily increasing.

The hundred copies of *Facts for the People*, sent to this place, are judiciously distributed, and are accomplishing their mission.

OHIO.

Madison County.—The Free Democracy met in the court room at London on 5th inst., Dr. J. McCullough Chairman, and W. Fish Secretary. The following resolution, among others was adopted:

Resolved, That the fact that John P. Hale was voted for in three of the slave States, is evidence that we may expect before 1856 there will be a complete organization of the Free Democratic party in every State of the Union, and that the day is not far distant when the shackles shall fall from the last slave, and our country shall be free indeed.

The following ticket was nominated:

Representative—Eli Adams; Treasurer—John W. Mathias; Commissioner—Lester H. Burnam; Coroner—J. S. Gossard; Surveyor—W. E. Davis.

The following persons were appointed a Central Committee:

W. Fish, Thomas Emery, J. A. Hume, W. B. Davis, D. G. Zimmerman, John W. McMillan, and Dr. John McCullough.

Morrow County.—A county convention was held at Mt. Gilead on 23d ult. J. M. Talmadge, President; E. E. Morehouse, Vice President, and Geo. J. Wood and James McFarland, Secretaries.

The following resolutions were reported and adopted, viz:

Resolved, That we re-affirm the principles of the Pittsburgh and Ohio Platforms, as the principles of this Convention.

Resolved, That we heartily concur in the recommendation of Joseph W. Vance for the office of State Senator, made by the Free Democracy of Knox county.

The following ticket was unanimously nominated:

Member of Board of Equalization—Wm. Hanes; Commissioner—Charles Russell; Surveyor—Thos. W. Sharp.

Central Committee—J. M. Talmage, E. R. Palley, J. Morris, T. Squires, J. R. Snider.

Preble County.—A Mass Convention was held at Eaton, on 8th inst. A letter in the *Columbian* says:

Jacob Chambers, of Eaton, was nominated for State Senator, for district composed of Preble and Montgomery. John Harrison, of West Elkton, was nominated for Representative for district composed of Preble three, good men and true were nominated to fill the other offices in this county.

Addresses were delivered by Hon. Geo. W. Julian, J. B. Finley, and others, at the close of which resolutions were passed unanimously adopting the sentiments and resolutions of the Conventions of Pittsburgh and Columbus, as the true Free Democratic doctrine.

Besides these, resolutions of a local character were passed, which do honor to Mr. Lewis and Hon. S. P. Chase, and are intended to aid in the cause of freedom. *

GREENCH, WASHINGTON CO., N. Y.
Sept. 20, 1853.

To the Editor of the National Era:

The Independent Democrats of Washington county, New York, met in Convention on the 8th instant, at Argyle. Mr. Ralph Richards, of Hampton, Chairman, and Dr. Joseph Keeney, of Greenwich, Secretary.

The Convention was opened by prayer by Rev. Mr. Lask, of Cambridge. Hon. Leonard Gibbs, of Greenwich, gave a very interesting account of the proceedings of the State Convention, and in an able speech showed the necessity of the Independent Democratic organization, and the folly of trusting to the old parties to do the work of reforming the crime of Slavery. Many cheering signs of the times were given, showing that the People were breaking away from old party ties, and becoming true to justice. Resolutions endorsing the proceedings of the State Convention were passed, and the following nominations made:

For Superintendent of the Poor—James Thompson; for Justice of Sessions—Horatio Emmons, of Easton; Robert McArthur, of Jackson; for District Attorney—Leonard Gibbs, of Greenwich; for Member of Assembly, District—Dr. Benjamin Barker, of Easton. In District No. 2, postponed till District Meeting.

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SUMMARY.

Abolition Literature.—The Columbia *South Carolinian* a week or two ago noticed a work entitled "The Liberties of America," which it regards "fouly tainted with Anti-Slavery doctrines." A more recent notice says: "We knew it was a book that would be bought and read unsuspectingly, and that those for whom it appeared more especially designed—students of politics—might be misled by expressions of sentiments at war with their notions of our institutions. We have observed but few notices of the book, and but one in this State—the editor merely mentioning the title, and stating that his had not read it."

A new novel, called "The Exiles," by Talvi, author of "Heloise," &c., is regarded as "*moderately* Anti-Slavery," and says, "is describes the planter's daughters as both opposed to the institution; and the arguments against it are put into the mouths of the characters we like best."

Uncle Tom's Cabin seems to have paved the way for the circulation of Anti-Slavery books in the South, though some of the papers there think the practice cannot be justified.

Exorcism.—The New York (Catholic) *Freeman's Journal* expresses an opinion that the spiritual rappings are of demoniacal origin, and in commenting upon the case of a lady, who, it is said, has recently become demented through the influence of spiritualism, says: "If she desires once more to be in possession of her right mind, and to be freed from the evil spirit that molests her, she had better apply to the Right Rev. Bishop of Albany, who, if he finds reason to believe that there is demoniacal possession in the case, will appoint an exorcist to drive out the devil that troubles her." This certainly savors not a little of the spirit of the dark ages.

Incendiarism.—Another attempt was made, on Friday morning, the 15th inst., to set fire to the dwelling of G. P. R. James, Esq., British Consul at Norfolk, Va. This is the third attempt of the kind that has been made within a few weeks. The fact that three attempts of this kind have been made within a short time, reflects but little credit on the vigilance of the police of that town in searching out the offenders. The fact of such an attempt being made at all, shows a most lamentably low state of public sentiment.

The Bible.—Rev. Thomas H. Stockton, an eminent Protestant clergyman, now residing in Baltimore, proposes to issue the sixty-six books which compose the Bible according to the Revised Version, in sixty-six separate volumes each containing the text beautifully printed on large, open type, followed by an original dissertation, with explanatory notes, and everything essential to a fair understanding of the sacred text—the whole to form a cabinet or miniature library; which will be more or less costly, according to the taste and means of the purchaser—say from $25 to $150 for the whole, according to the richness of binding, &c.

The Atlanta (Ga.) *Intelligencer*, of the 1st instant, says: "Mr. Francis Gideon, who died in this city on the 28d ult., left a will liberating twenty-nine slaves. He also, we understand, set apart a considerable portion of his other property to provide for their shipment to Liberia, and their maintenance after they arrive there."

The *Star* states that the War Department have ordered four companies of the 8th infantry to proceed with all possible despatch to El Paso, to establish a post there on the American side of the river.

Reform in New Jersey.—A meeting of Democrats to elect delegates to the State Convention was held at Woodbridge, N. J. Resolutions were adopted complimentary of the Administration—condemning the election of Wm. Wright as U. S. Senator as an outrage on the Democrats of the State, and against the railroad monopoly, which curses that Commonwealth.

The people of Louisville, Kentucky, have been endeavoring to get the slave markets, or pens, suppressed in that city. The Common Council have voted to repeal the ordinance licensing them, but their action was thwarted by the veto of the Mayor.

The Cincinnati correspondent of the New York *Evening Post*, under date of 16th inst., says:

"Since the fugitive McCurry was taken back into slavery by the order of Judge McLean, slave-hunters have become more bold, and several attempts at kidnapping have been made in the city. Thus far they have been defeated, those who were apprehended having been able to clearly establish their freedom, and some of the kidnappers have been lodged in jail, and are likely to find a few years of rest from their labors in the cells of the penitentiary. On the part of the claimants, there has been no want of disposition to swear to enough to consign the free-born to hopeless bondage; nor should we wonder at this false swearing, for the temptation is great, and it would be very difficult to show that it requires more depravity to take a false oath, than to rob a human being of his liberty—the dearest treasure he can possess, and a natural right bestowed by God himself. Thus to swear, we think awful; thus to rob, we aid by fugitive laws administered by Christian judges."

The San Antonio *Western Texan*, of the 1st inst., says that Gen. Ujhazi, the ex Governor of Comorn, arrived there on the previous evening.

The Democracy of Massachusetts are as inharmonious as their brethren of New York. On the 22d inst., a Democratic State Convention met at Worcester, and nominated Judge Bishop for Governor, and Mr. Dowley for Lieutenant Governor. They passed resolutions of a "national" in their tone, and in favor of the Administration. The Hunkers, who repudiate all coalition with the Free-Soilers, nominated Bradford L. Wales for Governor, and George Osborne for Lieut. Governor. They denounced Caleb Cushing as a Free Soil renegade Whig; and after three cheers for the New York Hunkers, adjourned. The breach in the ranks of the Democracy seems to be extending.

The Wisconsin Whig Convention has nominated Henry S. Baird, of Green Bay, for Governor; Bertine Pinkney, of Fond du Lac county, for Lieut. Governor; J. A. Hadley, of Watertown, for Secretary of State; and B. F. Pixley, of Rock, for Comptroller. *

An immense meeting of adopted citizens, political refugees, and others, was held in New York on Thursday evening, to testify their admiration of the conduct of Capt. Ingraham in the rescue of Kosta from the clutches of Austria. The galleries of the Metropolitan Hall were crowded with ladies, and the speeches of Hon. John P. Hale, Gen. Meszaros, John Cochran, Colonel Doheny, and others, were received with unbounded enthusiasm. A committee was appointed to procure a medal for presentation to Capt. Ingraham. *

To the Editor of the National Era:

The Washington *Sentinel* of Saturday says that the *Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* is "made up of manufactured advertisements, purporting to have been extracted from obscure or fanciful newspapers, printed in the South."

This is sheer calumny, and the *Sentinel* should make good or retract its loose and unfounded assertion. The *Sentinel* claims to be "free from those trammels and obligations that too often, perhaps, influence the political press."

Is Truth one of the trammels from which the *Sentinel* desires to be "free?" Verily, it would seem so. M.

HON. HORACE MANN has left Massachusetts, to take up his residence in Ohio. On his way through Fitchburg, on Thursday, the 15th inst., the Free Democratic State Convention, then in session, that place, hearing he was expected in the next train, adjourned in a body to wait upon him. He gave them a parting address upon the urgent necessity of devotion to the great virtues of Temperance, Education, Freedom, which were warmly received by the audience. Three cheers having been given for Mr. Mann, at the close of his remarks, Elizur Wright remarked that "the party which had lost him was unfortunate, but not so unfortunate as the party which threw him away."

Mr. Mann has left troops of friends behind him, and his absence will be felt in Massachusetts; but he is not a man to remain idle, and what Massachusetts loses in him Ohio will gain. Long life, health, and prosperity to Horace Mann.

THE WASHINGTON SENTINEL, published by Beverly Tucker, made its appearance on Saturday. It promises to give President Pierce's Administration "a hearty but independent support." It is a handsome, well-printed sheet.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE NATIONAL ERA.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

LONDON, *Sept. 9, 1853.*

To the Editor of the National Era:

It often happens that particular vices and crimes, from some cause or other, become more prevalent to such a degree as to appear as if they were propagated by infection. The two great contagions running over England at the present time are child-murder and the brutal treatment of women, wives, or paramours. It is difficult to account for these most unnatural offences; but it is to be feared that, coupled with the indiscriminate Democracy will come, of which examples are ever coming to light, (many remaining undiscovered,) the whole mass of guilt bespeaks a condition of moral decay and philosophy which cannot be contemplated without absolute horror.

We might take an alarming view of such circumstances, and from history argue the decline "of Empire;" but such phenomena are not so new as the newspaper journalists might lead us to imagine; and for the consolation of the timid, we have pleasure in quoting a literary curiosity published by an ex-Minister of France, twenty years ago. He says:

"Taken collectively, the populace of England is remarkable for its cowardice. Its turbulent disposition, which it is always prompt to manifest, is easily suppressed by the staff, often by the presence of a few policemen. The character of individuals must be studied, in order to find amongst them some individuals capable of having the courage to utter indignation, prove that they are capable of violent anger, have a strong tendency to revenge, great contempt for the consequences of the struggle in which they engage, and that generosity during the progress of the combat. But their domestic manners are in keeping with those they display in the streets. Among this class the husband maintains his wife by blows, and the wife here in the education of her children. The conduct of both is often followed by the most disastrous results. The daily newspapers teem with details of domestic murders, attended by circumstances of violence, and unmitigated in their atrocity by a tardy repentance. No efforts are made by the inculcation of the principles or the exterior practices of religion to correct the vicious inclinations of the people. The only education which they receive is the elements of reading and writing. The effect produced by such a training is to make them ignorant and robbers of those who, without it, would be stupefied by misery and debauch."—*Baron D'Haussez's Sketches of England*—1833.

Politically speaking, this date may be styled a dearth; but, politically speaking, there can be no dearths for the observer of the world in its progress now. On the contrary, it may be that the very moment selected to dilate upon a subject, will prove to be the storm before the outburst of the volcano. It is not so now; for there are irritations even upon the surface to converge attention; but still we are of opinion that the Democracy of Europe contains beneath are of infinitely greater importance than Russo-Greek questions or Mohammedan polemics. These may be followed by wars—by jealousies they must be; but wars come to an end, and jealousies wear out, and change partners. But the deeper stake is now beginning to be played for; and though we may shut our eyes to it and wish it away, it will not be shaved out and supersede all other "notions" and consideations. The head-market is a splendid place for diplomatists to signalize the acumen of their countries; but the stomach-market is the place where power throwed will be foiled.

It is for this reason that people continue to look more anxiously to the clouds and skies, than to the news from Constantinople, Vienna, or St. Petersburg. Bad harvests on the production of food rather than on the destruction of war. From England the precious metals are already departing much faster than the supply from California and Australia. The silver is finding its way to Egypt and India, the gold to all the corn quarters in Europe from which grain can be imported. In compensation for this, the Government is buying to the utmost extent, and Italy, and Belgium, and other countries, are providing against the evil day. The rise of prices is already seriously affecting the stationary middle classes; and coal, bread, and butchers' meat, are carrying nearly all other articles up with them to what used to be called war-prices. The Bank has raised its rate of discount to 4 per cent. last year to 2 and 2½. The effect of all this will be a great change in the relations of life and in the manufactures and commerce of the country, in which no other nation can be so deeply interested as America. Therefore there is no doubt your merchants are awake to their breadstuffs and cotton. *Verbum sat.* We are only at the beginning of the end.

The Democrats of Ireland, by a strange and erroneous stretch of power, ordered the bakers of Paris to sell their bread below the price at which they can make it; which is a great stretch of power, and a great disturbing the very elements and principles of trade. The Louis Blanc national ateliers could not be so fatal; but, as we have said, the stomach must be appeased, or revolution will boom in the near distance.

After a visit to Ireland and the Dublin Crystal Palace, the Queen has proceeded to her Highland retreat. The disaffection of Irish loyalty were sufficiently developed; but it has been remarked that the Romish clergy and Roman Catholics generally kept entirely aloof from those signs of rejoicing and attachment.

Among other Ministerial changes, the loss of our principal Cabinet Ministers, for which Lord John Russell was hastily telegraphed from Scotland, has attracted much notice. It evidently referred to the decision of the line of conduct to be adopted on the Turkish perplexity, should the assent of Russia be withheld from the propositions, as altered by the Sultan. The determination of this vital measure is hourly expected; and with it peace or war, or possibly further negotiation, if the Danubian Provinces are evacuated. At all events, it is to be hoped that the Government will give the Turk to the four Powers at Vienna, independently of the note forwarded to St. Petersburgh, that the belligerent right has accumulated in the Dardanelles, under the Treaty of Adrianople tion thrown in the teeth of Russia will render the acceptance of the first note yet more unpalatable. The *sine qua non* of the evacuation of Moldavia and Wallachia is insisted upon by Prussia and Austria, and consequent on Russia to sign the treaty; and even guarantees against any future occupation of the Provinces are required. Unless the negotiators can modify these terms, war seems to be imminent; and as the Turkish force is estimated at 200,000 men, including that description of troops which are the most effective in mountain warfare, the consequences of conflict would be terrible. The four Powers are meanwhile placed, we might almost say, in a series of dilemmas.

In another quarter hostilities have broken out. The Spanish Government has quarrelled with the fourth estate, and prohibited the entrance of the *Times* newspaper into Spain; hence *bella, horrida bella!*

In Rome, a Mazzini conspiracy has been detected, and many persons arrested. From all that can be learned, it was another ill-judged personal attempt of this restless man, and not the office of Treasurer, and divided the balance of the offices, giving us several of them. They reported a Maine Law Platform exclusively or nearly so, and adjourned under the best feeling.

It was hoped by us that the magnanimity of the Whigs, and the self-denial manifested by a large number of old line Democrats, would induce the Free Soil organization to adopt the "peoples ticket;" but so far we have been sadly disappointed; they positively refuse. The position of the old line Democratic nominees and their previous character as to temperance, is such that good temperance men will not support them. With the defection of the temperance men from the old line Democrats, and a cordial union of the Whigs and Free Democrats, we hoped and believed that we could elect three men to our Legislature, pledged to the Maine Law, and one good Free Platform, pledged to the election of Mr. Chase to the United States Senate: but the unaccountable obstinacy of the Free Democratic Central Committee has so far defeated our aims. We have expostulated with them, we have threatened them, we have sent petitions numerously signed by the voters in this county, we showed them the views of the *Columbian*, and yours also; but they seem to be proof against all efforts. Mr. J. B. Hale, of Owen, and Mr. Chase, asked them to come in. Mr. Gaston offered on last Saturday to give in his declination, if they would accept, but they seem incorrigible, and influenced by a blind fatuity. Their course is disgusting, not only to the liberal of our own party, but also to a large number of liberal Whigs and old line Democrats, who sympathize with our cause. The Whig party ultimately will be the loser by the union, as it will familiarize their rank and file to vote for men of our party, thus breaking down prejudices and the rule of party.

W. S. MACKINTOSH.

We hope to escape the crushing charge of having Free Soil prochivities, and also of a desire to agitate the prohibited question in copying from the Louisville *Courier's* report of the proceedings of the Common Council of that city, *to-wit*:

"Last Saturday evening this body was in session until a late hour, and passed an ordinance prohibiting the purchase and sale of slaves, as a business, within the city limits, under the penalty of $500 for each day's offence."

We would moreover have it distinctly understood that we are in favor of, and that we wish each slaveholding city and each slaveholding State in the Union would enact a similar law; not only as to the "purchase and sale of slaves as a business," but against the purchase and sale of slaves within their limits in any form.

Madison (Ind. Democratic) Courier.

THE YELLOW FEVER AT NEW ORLEANS.—*New Orleans, Sept. 23.*—The fever continues to prevail, though the city is assuming a better state of health. There were 28 deaths from fever during the past 24 hours, and seven from causes unknown.

The most distressing accounts are received of the ravages of the fever at Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, and along the coast. Delegates from the Medical Association are asking for more nurses, and relief is being forwarded in every direction.

Mobile, Sept. 23.—The intermente yesterday were 20, including 14 from yellow fever.

MARRIAGE.

Married, Sept. 15th, 1853, in Medina, Ohio, by the Rev. Jacob A. Brown, MR. LORENZO D. CARLIN, of Congress, Wayne county, Ohio, to MISS FLORA ANN MCFERRIN, of Homer, Medina county, Ohio.

SHELBY, MIAMI, AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY. ATTENTION.

SAMUEL LEWIS will address the people of Shelby county at Sidney, Wednesday, October 5. He will address the people of Miami county at Troy, Thursday, October 6; and the people of Montgomery county Friday, October 7, at such point as the friends in that county may determine.

Let arrangements be made at once by the friends in the three counties for securing the largest Independent Democratic meeting ever held in their counties, and let special efforts be made to secure the attendance of the ladies. God bless them! Their hearts are right for Freedom as well as Temperance.

By order of the State Central Committee,

J. H. COULTER, *Chairman.*

FREE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN ILLINOIS.

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Free Democratic Convention held at the Court House in Bloomington, Marion county, Illinois, on Monday, October 10, 1853, at 10 o'clock, A. M. for the purpose of nominating candidates for county offices, to be supported at the approaching November election. The several towns will be entitled to the following number of delegates:

Dundee, 6; Elgin, 10; St. Charles, 9; Rutland, 4; Plato, 4; Campton, 5; Hampshire, 4; Virgil, 4; Auroro, 16; Sugar Grove, 5; Big Rock, 4; Kaneville, 4; Batavia, 6; Blackberry, 5; Geneva, 6; Burlington, 4

The several towns will hold their primary meetings for the appointment of delegates on Saturday, October 8, at seven o'clock, P. M. Let each town be fully represented in the Convention.

EDWARD ALEXANDER,
BREED CONVERSE,
A. DANFORTH,
CHARLES H. WELLS,
WILLIAM EASTON,
Central Committee.

MORE MASS MEETINGS IN OHIO

We are now able to announce the following additional appointments for the champions of freedom:

Newark, Licking county, Thursday, September 29.

Reynoldsburg, Franklin county, Friday, September 30.

Worthington, Franklin county, Saturday, October 1.

Marion, Marion county, Tuesday, October 4.

The meetings will be addressed by Samuel Lewis, our worthy standard bearer, and probably by S. P. Chase, our noble Senator. It gives us much pleasure to say that Mr. Chase is doing a great work for us this campaign, and we hope he will make his labors. Mr. Lewis has written to us of him as follows:

"I wish I could shape a short article expressive of my entire confidence in him: that word is too weak; my admiration of and my gratitude to him."

In these words we heartily concur, and would extend them to Mr. Lewis also.

Now, friends, give them rousing meetings—such as will make Hunkerism tremble.

J. H. COULTER,
Chairman State Central Committee.

FACTS WITHOUT COMMENT.
THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW THEM.

NEW YORK, *October 10, 1852.*

Mrs. Hanley, No. 18 Bleecker street, writes us that she has been troubled with worms for some three years, and that she used one phial of Dr. McLane's celebrated Vermifuge, which brought away over fifty large worms. Her usual good health immediately recovered.

Mrs. Quigby, No. 182 Essex street, New York, under date of November 23, 1852, writes us that

WASHINGTON, D. C.

EMBARKATION OF THE PILGRIMS.

The anniversary of the Embarkation of the Puritans from Delft-Haven, Holland, was celebrated on the 1st of August, 1853, at Plymouth, Mass. Men, women, and children, participated in the festivities of the occasion. Rev. Mr. Sears furnished the following original hymn for the occasion:

Beneath the hallowed ground where now ye trend
New England's first and holiest martyrs sleep;
And ocean waves, to celebrate the dead,
Lift the eternal anthems of the deep.

And here their mighty spirits linger long;
They walk abroad through all the hallowed air,
And where yon pales for freedom beats more strong,
Know ye that Pilgrim blood is coursing there!

Oh! ye whose sacred dust on Bunker Hill
Kind mother Earth in holy trust contains!
Above, the cause ye loved keep watching still,
And roll your fire through all our languid veins!

Then from New England's hills, afar and near,
A light shall stream in columns to the skies;
And like a new Aurora shall appear
Where'er a race in chains and darkness lies!

Hon. Charles Sumner was called to respond to the toast to the Senate of the United States. He said:

Mr. President, you bid me speak for the Senate: but I cannot forget that there is another voice here, of classical eloquence, which might more fitly render this service. As one of the youngest members of that body, and associated with the public councils for a brief period only, I should prefer that my distinguished colleague, whose fame is linked with a long political life, should speak for it. And there is yet another here, [Mr. Hale,] who, though not at this moment a member of the Senate, has, throughout an active and brilliant career, marked by a rare combination of ability, eloquence, and good humor, so identified himself with it in the public mind, that he might well speak for it always; and when he speaks, all are pleased to listen. [Applause.] But, sir, you have ordered it otherwise.

From the departure of Delft-Haven—from the deck of the "Mayflower"—from the landing at Plymouth Rock to the Senate of the United States, is a mighty contrast, covering whole spaces of history—hardly less than from the wolf that suckled Romulus and Remus to that Roman Senate which, on curule chairs, swayed Italy and the world. From these obscure beginnings of poverty and weakness, which you now piously commemorate, and on which all our minds naturally rest to-day, you bid us leap to that marble Capitol, where thirty-one powerful States, bound in indissoluble Union—a plural unit—are gathered together in legislative body, constituting a part of one government, which, stretching from ocean to ocean, and counting millions of people beneath its majestic rule, surpasses far, in wealth and might, any government of the Old World when the little band of Pilgrims left it, and which now promises to be a chap between Europe and Asia, bringing the most distant places near together, so that there shall be no more Orient or Occident. It were idle, sir, to dwell on the stages of this grand procession; but it is enough, on this occasion, merely to glance at them and pass on.

Sir, in the Pilgrim Band that we commemorate to-day—not the Senate. For this moment, at least, let us tread under foot all pride of empire—all exaltation in our manifold triumphs of industry of science, of literature—and, it may reverently bow before the forefathers. The day is theirs. In the contemplation of their virtue we shall derive a lesson, which, like truth, may judge us sternly, but, if we can really follow it, like truth, it shall make us free. For myself, I accept the admonitions of the day. It may teach us all never, by word or act—although we may be few in numbers or alone—to swerve from those primal principles of duty, which, from the landing at Plymouth Rock, have been the life of Massachusetts. Let me briefly unfold the lesson.

Few persons in history have suffered more, from contemporary misrepresentation, abuse, and persecution, than the English Puritans. At first a small body, they were regarded with indifference or contempt; but by degrees they grew in numbers, and drew into their company men of education, intelligence, and even of rank. Reformers in all ages have had little of blessing from the world which they sought to serve; but the Puritans were not disheartened. Still they persevered. The obnoxious laws of conformity they vowed to withstand till, in the fervid language of the time, they "be sent back to the darkness from whence they came." Through them the spirit of modern Freedom made itself potently felt, in its great warfare with Authority, in Church, in Literature, and in the State: in other words, for religious, intellectual, and political emancipation. The Puritans primarily aimed at religious freedom; for this they contended in Parliament, under Elizabeth and James; for this they suffered; but so connected are all these great and glorious interests, that the struggles for one have always helped the other. Such service did they do, that Hume, whose cold nature could not sympathize with their burning souls, is obliged to confess that to them alone "the English owe the whole freedom of their Constitution."

As among all reformers, so among them, there were differences of degree. Some continued within the pale of the National Church, and there pressed their ineffectual attempts in behalf of the good cause. Some at length—driven by conscientious convictions, and unwilling to be partakers longer in its enormities, stung also by the cruel excesses of magistrates, power—openly disclaimed the National Establishment, and became a separate sect—first, under the name of Brownists, from the person who had led in this new organization, and then under the better name of *Separatists*. After long struggles, in Parliament and out of it, in Church and State, continued through successive reigns, the Puritans finally triumphed, and the despised sect of Separatists, swollen in numbers, and now under the denomination of INDEPENDENTS, with Oliver Cromwell as their head, and John Milton as his Secretary, ruled England. Thus is prefigured the final triumph of all, however few in numbers, who sincerely devote themselves to Truth. [Applause.]

The Pilgrims of Plymouth were among the earliest of the Separatists. As such, they knew by bitter experience all the sharpness of persecution. Against them the men of power had like the heathen. Against them the whole fury of the law was directed. Some were imprisoned, all were impoverished, while their name became a by-word of reproach. In safety and freedom, the little band first sought shelter in Holland, where they continued in indigence and obscurity for more than ten years, when they were impelled to seek a home in this unknown western world. Such, in brief, is their history. I could not say more of it, without intruding upon your time; I could not say less, without injustice to them.

Rarely have austere principles been expressed with more gentleness than from their lips. By a covenant with the Lord, they had vowed to walk in all his ways, according to their best endeavors, *whatsoever it should cost them*; and also to receive whatsoever truth should be made known from the written word of God. Repentance and prayers, patience and tears, were their weapons. "It is not with us," said they, "as with other men, whom small things can discourage, or small discontentments cause to wish themselves back from whence they came. So these men, with their sublime endurance and with their lofty faith, are among those who were sometimes called "Puritan Knaves" and "Knaves Puritan," and were hunted by King James as the "very pests in the Church and Commonwealth." This small company of our forefathers was expressly termed the "pinchod fanatics of Leyden" and at Whitehall, in 1633, a masque—by Carew, an elegant and careful poet of the reign of Charles I—was performed by the King and his courtiers, wherein the whole population of New England was turned to royal sport. It was said to have "purged more virulent humors from the politic bodies, than guiacum and all the West Indian drugs have from the natural bodies of the kingdom." [Sensation.]

And these outcasts, despised in their own day by the proud, and powerful, are the men whom we have met in this goodly number to celebrate—not for any victory of war; not for any triumph of discovery, science, or learning; not for worldly success of any kind. How poor are all these things by the side of that divine virtue which led them, amidst the reproach, the obloquy, and the hardness of the world, to hold fast to the Truth.

Sir, if the honors of this day are not a mockery; if they do not expend themselves in mere selfish gratulation; if they are a sincere homage to the character of the Pilgrims—and I cannot suppose otherwise—then is it well for us to be here. Standing on Plymouth Rock, at their great anniversary, we cannot fail to be inspired by their example. We see clearly what it has done for the world, and what it has done for their name. No man here to-day will think their self-sacrifice, their deviation from received opinions, their unquenchable thirst for liberty, as an act of folly. Conformity might, perhaps, have purchased for them a profitable peace, but not peace of mind; it might have secured place and power, but not repose; it might have opened a present shelter, but not a home in history and man's hearts till time shall be no more. All will confess the true grandeur of their example, while, in vindication of a cherished principle, they stood alone. Against them were all men; against the law of the land, against their king. Better be the despised Pilgrim—a fugitive for freedom—than the halting politician, forgetful of principle, and a Senate at his beck." [Enthusiastic applause.]

Such, sir, is the voice from Plymouth Rock, as it salutes my ears. Others may not hear it; but to me it comes in tones which I cannot mistake. I catch its words of noble cheer:

New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must upward still, and onward, who would keep abreast of Truth;
Lo! before us gleam her camp-fires! We ourselves must be pilgrims.
Launch our Mayflower, and steer boldly through the deeps of time.

The eloquent gentleman's peroration was followed with the heartiest applause, long continued.

For the National Era.

LINES TO C. H. C.

Written on reading "Midnight in Autumn Among the Hills of Ohio."

BY KATE HARRINGTON.

Thou hast wakened pleasant memories
Of days long passed by me,
Since Ohio's hills before me
Were in Autumn beauty dressed.
Since I lingered long beside thee,
Entranced, and wondering
If the angels taught by spirit
Its joyous carolling.

'Twas in life's unclouded spring-time
Thy warblings reached my ear;
Then first I learned to listen
To the strains that broug the tear!
And oft I'vo stood beside thee,
With my ear bent close to thine,
That my soul might drink the echo
Of strains almost divine.

Thou didst not know the pleasure,
The bliss, thou couldst impart;
Nor couldst thou see the transports
That leaped from my young heart.
Yet thou mayest still remember
How I drank the sweet wild,
And how you often called me
A merry-hearted child.

Oh! Time has wrought his changes
Since I roved through "Quiet Glen,"
And many are the shadows
That have crossed my path since then;
But when the sky is darkened
O'er seas of living green,
And brightly sparkling streamlets
That proudly roll between,

The Past comes up before me—
I feel the tear-drops start—
While Recollection's fingers
Keep time to my heart.
Thy voice is there, O poet!
It binds me with a spell—
The same mysterious witchery
My childhood loved so well.

Prairie Cottage, Farmington, Iowa.

For the National Era.

THE SOUTHERN PLATFORM;

OR,

MANUAL OF SOUTHERN SENTIMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF SLAVERY.

Being a Compilation from the Writings of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and others, whose names are consecrated in the affections of the Southern People—the Debates in the Federal and State Conventions which framed and ratified the Constitution of the United States—those which occurred in the first Congresses which sat during the Administration of General Washington—and extracts from the Debates in the Virginia Legislature in 1832; with various letters, judicial decisions, &c.

BY DANIEL R. GOODLOE, OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ANNALS OF CONGRESS.—Continued.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1794.

Quakers' Memorial.

A memorial was read, from the people called Quakers, in Philadelphia, praying that a memorial is to request that Congress would pass a law prohibit the citizens of the United States from transporting slaves from the coast of Africa to the West Indies, in ships.

The petition was read by the Speaker.

Mr. Giles wished that it might be referred to a select committee.

Mr. Harper wished that it should lie on the table for a day or two. He did not, by this, mean to oppose the principle of the memorial; but he understood that another of the same kind was to be presented to the Senate. He therefore wished that it should be deferred, that the House could see whether the Senate should take it up. If they did not, he should then move that it should be referred to a select committee.

The petition was ordered to lie on the table. *Page 249.*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21.

Quakers' Memorial.

The memorial of the people called Quakers, at Shrewsbury Monthly meeting, held in Rhode Island, in the year 1793, which lay on the table, be referred to Mr. Trumbull, Mr. Ward, Mr. Giles, Mr. Talbot, and Mr. Grove; that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their opinion thereupon, to the House.—*Page 253.*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28.

A memorial of the delegates from the several societies of Friends, in Pennsylvania, of the United States for promoting the abolition of Slavery, in convention assembled, at Philadelphia, on the 1st instant, was presented to the House and read, praying that more effectual and more measures as may be the most effectual and expedient for the abolition of the slave trade. Also, a memorial of the Providence Society for Abolishing the Slave-Trade, to the same effect.

Ordered, That the said memorials be referred to Mr. Trumbull, Mr. Ward, Mr. Giles, Mr. Talbot, and Mr. Grove; that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their opinion thereupon, to the House. *Page 349.*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

Mr. Trumbull, from the committee to whom were referred the memorials of the people called Quakers, in Pennsylvania, and of the United States for promoting the abolition of Slavery, in convention assembled, at Philadelphia, on the 1st day of January last; and of the Providence Society for Abolishing the Slave Trade; and, after some time spent therein, the Chairman reported that the Committee had had the said report under consideration, and come to a resolution thereupon; which was twice read, and agreed to by the House, as follows:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare and bring in a bill or bills to prohibit the fitting out of any ship or vessel, in any port of the United States, either by citizens of the United States or foreigners, for the purpose of procuring, from any kingdom or country, the inhabitants of such kingdom or country, to be transported to any foreign ports or places of the world, to be sold or disposed of as slaves.

Ordered, That Mr. Trumbull, Mr. Ward, Mr. Giles, Mr. Talbot, and Mr. Grove, be a committee pursuant to the said resolution. *Page 455.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

Mr. Trumbull, from the committee appointed, presented a bill to prohibit the carrying on the slave trade from the United States to any foreign place or country, which was read twice, and committed.—*Page 469.*

MARCH 6.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the bill to prohibit the carrying on the slave trade from the United States of the United States—Mr. Boudinot in the chair.

The two first sections of the bill were agreed to, with one alteration moved by Mr. Trumbull, which was agreed to. Also, the third as well as the Circuit Courts, cognizance of the offence.

The third section—which relates to the penalty, &c.—was moved should be struck out.

This motion was negatived.

It was then moved to insert the word *foreign* before "ship or vessel;" which was agreed to.

The Committee proceeded through the bill, which was reported to the House with sundry amendments. These were agreed to by the House, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.—*Page 483.*

From Tucker's Blackstone.

ON THE STATE OF SLAVERY IN VIRGINIA.

By St. George Tucker, Professor of Law in the University of William and Mary, and one of the Judges of the General Court in Virginia.

NOTE H.

In the preceding inquiry into the absolute rights of the citizens of United America, we must not forget that they have declared that these equally and universally the privilege of all the inhabitants of the United States, or even of all those who may challenge this land of freedom as their native country. Among the blessings which the Almighty hath showered down on these States, there is a large portion of the bitterest drought that ever flowed from the cup of affliction. While America hath been the land of promise to Europeans and their descendants, it hath been the vale of death to millions of the wretched sons of Africa. The genial light of liberty, which shone with so bright a ray, vailed lustre on the former, hath yielded no comfort to the latter; but to them hath proved a pillar of darkness, whilst it hath conducted the former to the promised land of mental existence. Whilst we were offering up vows at the shrine of liberty, and sacrificing hecatombs upon her altars; whilst we swore irreconcilable hatred to her enemies, and bared defiance in their faces; whilst we adjured the God of Hosts to witness our resolution to live free, or die, and imprecated curses on their heads who refused to hazard life and all in establishing the empire of freedom, we were imposing upon our fellow-men, who differ in complexion from us, a *Slavery* ten thousand times more cruel than the utmost extremity of those grievances and oppressions of which we complained. Such are the inconsistence of human nature; such the blindness of those who pluck not the beam out of their own eyes, whilst they can espy a mote in that of their brethren! Such that partial system of morality which confines rights and injuries to particular complexions; such the effect of that self-love which justifies or condemns not according to the principle, but to the agent. Had we turned our eyes inwardly when we supplicated the Father of Mercies to aid the injured and oppressed; when we invoked the Author of Righteousness to attest the purity of our motives and the justice of our cause; (1) and implored the God of Battles to aid our exertions in its defence, should we not have stopped short and exclaimed thus in contrite publican? Should we not have left our gift upon the altar, that we might first be reconciled to our brethren whom we held in bondage? Should we have begged for aid, while chains and broken their fetters? Or, if the difficulties and dangers of such an experiment prohibited the attempt during the convulsion of a revolution, in the infancy of a system, should we not have stopped at the first moment of constitutional health and vigor to effectuate so desirable an object, and to remove from us a stigma with which our enemies reproached us, and which gave our conscience to reproach us? To form a just estimate of this obligation, to demonstrate the incompatibility of a state of Slavery with the principles of our Revolution, and with the Revolution upon which it is founded, and to elucidate the practicability of its total though gradual abolition, it will be proper to consider the nature of Slavery, its properties, attendants, and consequences in the present, its progress, and present state, not only in this Commonwealth, but in such of our sister States as have either perfected or commenced the great work of their redemption, and the means which have adopted to effect it, and those which the circumstances and situation of our country may render it most expedient for us to pursue, for the attainment of the same noble and important end! (2)

According to Justinian, (3) the first general division of persons, in respect to their rights, is into freedom and slavery. This is the first and the happiness of that country from which the citizens of the United States derive their origin, that the traces of Slavery, such as at present exist in the United States, in Europe are there utterly extinguished. It is not my design to enter into a minute inquiry whether it ever had existence there, nor to compare the situation of the people, arising in a measure of pure vilinenge, with that of modern domestic slaves. The records of those times—at least such as have reached this quarter of the land—are too few and too fabulous to afford satisfactory light on the subject. Suffice it that our ancestors, migrating thither, brought not with them any prototype of that Slavery which hath been so grievous to us. Nor do we find any mention of it into Virginia was by the arrival of a Dutch ship, from the coast of Africa, having *twenty* negroes on board, who were sold here in the year 1620. (4) In the year 1641, it was made in Massachusetts, (5.) They were introduced into Connecticut soon after the settlement of that colony; that is to say, about the same period. Thus early did our forefathers sow the seeds of an evil, which, like a leprosy, hath descended upon their posterity with accumulated rancor, visiting the sins of the fathers upon succeeding generations. The natives of the Northern States, less favorable to the constitution of the natives of Africa (7) than the Southern, proved alike unfavorable to their propagation, and to the increase of the slaves by importations. As the southern colonies advanced in population, not only importations increased there, but nature herself, under the influence of climate, rendered more constitution, assisted in multiplying the blacks in those parts, no less than in diminishing their numbers in the more rigorous climates of the North. This influence of climate, moreover, contributed extremely to increase or diminish the value of the slave to the purchasers in the different colonies. White laborers, whose constitutions were better adapted to the severe winters of the New England colonies, were found to be preferable to the negroes, (8) who, accustomed to the influence of an ardent sun, became almost torpid in those countries, not less adapted to give vigor to their laborious exercises, than unfavorable to the multiplication of their species. In those colonies where the winters were not only milder and of short duration, but nature seemed to have taken warmer heat, as invigorating to the African as debilitating to the European constitution, the negroes were not barely more capable of performing labor than their masters and their descendants, but the multiplication of the species were at least equal, and, where they met with humane treatment, perhaps greater than among the whites. Yet, notwithstanding, the circumstance that, in proportion to the Northern States in the Union, is therefore not attributable *solely* to the effect of sentiment, but to natural causes, as well as the considerations of profit which have, perhaps, an equal influence over the conduct of mankind in general, in whatever country or under whatever climate their destiny hath placed them. What may be the considerations of this nature could have influenced the merchants of the freest nation, at that time, in the world, to embark in so nefarious a traffic as that of the human race, attended, as the African slave trade has been, with the most atrocious aggravations of cruelty, perfidy, and intrigues, the objects of which have been the perpetual fomentation of predatory and interstine wars? What, but similar considerations, could prevail on the Government of the same country, even in those days, to prohibit commerce so diametrically opposite to the generally-received maxims of that Government. It is to the operation of these considerations in the Northern States, no less than to their influence in the colonies, that the rise, increase, and continuance of Slavery in those British colonies which now constitute United America, are to be attributed, as I shall endeavor to show in the course of the present inquiry. It is new time to inquire into the nature of Slavery in general, and take a view of its consequences and attendants in this Commonwealth in particular.

(1.) The American standard, at the commencement of those hostilities which terminated in the Revolution, had these words upon it: An Appeal to Heaven!

(2) The editor here takes the opportunity of making his acknowledgments to the Rev. Jeremiah Belknap, D.D., of Boston, and to Jeremiah Wadsworth, Esq., formerly representative in Congress from Connecticut, for their obliging communications; he hath occasionally made use of them in several parts of this lecture, where he may have omitted referring to them.

(3.) Inst. lib. 1. tit. 2.

(4.) Stith, 132.

(5.) Dr. Belknap's Answers to St. George Tucker's queries.

(6.) Letter from Zephania Swift to St. G. Tucker.

(7.) Dr. Belknap, Zephaniah Swift.

(8.) Ibid.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

MASSACHUSETTS FREE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

SEPTEMBER, 15.

Hon. Francis W. Bird, from the Committee on Resolutions, reported the following series, which were read and nearly applause, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the grand object of the Free Democracy is to annihilate the influence of the slave power in the Federal Government; and thereby prevent the extension, lessen the evils, and hasten the extinction of Slavery in America.

Resolved, That Slavery is the creature of local law, and that the United States have nothing to do with it, except to limit, discourage, and prohibit it to the *utmost extent* of their constitutional power.

Resolved, That the slave power was never more bold than now in its attempts to prey upon the civilization of America and that its schemes of violence and conquest abroad, and of complete domination at home, are worthy only of barbarous ages, and are perilous to the existence of the Republic.

Resolved, That as long as she holds a race in chains, America will be shorn of her influence among the nations; and that she owes it to the nations of the world, and to the world to establishing the empire of freedom, as were imposing upon our fellow-men, who differ in complexion from us, a *Slavery* ten thousand times more cruel than the utmost extremity of those grievances and oppressions of which we complained. Such are the inconsistence of human nature; such the blindness of those who pluck not the beam out of their own eyes, whilst they can espy a mote in that of their brethren! Such that partial system of morality which confines rights and injuries to particular complexions; such the effect of that self-love which justifies or condemns not according to the principle, but to the agent. Had we turned our eyes inwardly when we supplicated the Father of Mercies to aid the injured and oppressed; when we invoked the Author of Righteousness to attest the purity of our motives and the justice of our cause; (1) and implored the God of Battles to aid our exertions in its defence, should we not have stopped short and exclaimed thus in contrite publican? Should we not have left our gift upon the altar, that we might first be reconciled to our brethren whom we held in bondage? Should we have begged for aid, while chains and broken their fetters? Or, if the difficulties and dangers of such an experiment prohibited the attempt during the convulsion of a revolution, in the infancy of a system, should we not have stopped at the first moment of constitutional health and vigor to effectuate so desirable an object, and to remove from us a stigma with which our enemies reproached us, and which gave our conscience to reproach us? To form a just estimate of this obligation, to demonstrate the incompatibility of a state of Slavery with the principles of our Revolution, and with the Revolution upon which it is founded, and to elucidate the practicability of its total though gradual abolition, it will be proper to consider the nature of Slavery, its properties, attendants, and consequences in the present; its progress, and present state, not only in this Commonwealth, but in such of our sister States as have either perfected or commenced the great work of their redemption, and the means which have adopted to effect it, and those which the circumstances and situation of our country may render it most expedient for us to pursue, for the attainment of the same noble and important end! (2)

Resolved, That we renew the resolution adopted by the convention of 1848, that the tenth article of the Pittsburgh Platform, in the following words, "that no permanent settlement of the Slavery Question can be looked for, except in the adoption of the Wilmot Proviso, the great end of Government, viz: the protection of the rights of each individual against infringement, alike, from other individuals, and from the State, requiring the Free Democracy to establish rights, with the fewest possible privileges, shall guaranty to labor its rewards with the fewest possible burdens, and which, by protecting the weak against the strong, the minority against the tyranny of majorities, and the rights of labor, shall secure to them enlarged means and opportunities for intellectual, moral, and religious improvement."

4. General laws for all, and special laws for the privileged few.

5. A sound and safe currency, with ample security, for the redemption of all notes in specie.

6. Limitation of the length of the sessions of the Legislature, and the reduction of its expenses.

7. The abolition of the property qualification for the offices of Governor and Lieut. Governor.

8. The guaranty of the elective franchise, as a right belonging to freemen, and not a privilege to be bought of superiors or conferred on vassals.

9. The inviolable secrecy of the ballot.

10. The restoration of Harvard College to the purposes of its foundation. The college founded by the people of Massachusetts, and Massachusetts is a great extent by their money, should be devoted to their interests, and responsible, like the other colleges of the State, to their representatives.

11. The entire management of the School Fund and its preservation "inviolate; and the income thereof to be annually appropriated for the aid and improvement of the common schools of the State and for no other purpose."

12. The election of Senators in single districts of the people.

13. The division of large cities into representative districts, thus abolishing the unjust and anti-democratic ward ticket system.

14. The holding of the Presidential and State elections on the same day.

15. The right of the people to call a convention for the revision of their Constitution, without being controlled by a factious minority accidentally in a majority in the Legislature.

16. The writ of *habeas corpus* as a right.

17. The repeal of those laws, the right of which the courts have attempted to deprive them—the right in criminal cases to judge of the law: without which jury trial ceases to be a blessing instead of a right.

18. The abolition of the imprisonment of honest debtors.

19. The non-appropriation of public money to the support of sectarian schools.

Resolved, Therefore, that we are in favor of the amended Constitution, which secures so many important reforms; that we are in favor of its parts and as a whole; and we pledge ourselves to press onward in the path of progress until these reforms shall become parts of an established institution.

Resolved, That the Whig party, by opposing the adoption of the amended Constitution, proposes every one of the above enumerated, reforms, and aims to perpetuate all the abuses of the present system; and by stupidly resisting all progress must meet, as it deserves, an inglorious defeat.

Resolved, That in order to inaugurate successfully the new Constitution, and to give effect to the reforms contained therein, the Legislature friendly to these reforms is independable; that the Whig party, the leaders of which, seriously proposed to prohibit, by legislative act, the meeting of a Convention called by a majority of the voters at the last State election, is capable of any desperate measure to retrieve its forlorn fortunes; and therefore, that a working majority of reform members in the next Legislature is hardly second in importance to the adoption of the Constitution itself.

Resolved, That we unanimously present to the people as our candidate for Governor, the Hon. Henry Wilson, of Natick, whose actions in the Legislature, and out of it, require no comment; whose integrity and ability they admire; and whose eminent public services and native sympathies with the people, entitle him to the fullest confidence and most cordial support.

Resolved, That we unanimously present Hon. Amasa Walker, of North Brookfield, as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor; and we recommend him as a long-tried and faithful friend of popular rights, who has never been found wanting when the cause of Liberty and Humanity asked a champion.

Mr. Lamson, of Stone, of Charlestown, from the Committee on Resolutions, next made a final report, as follows, for the committee:

Resolved, By each and every member of the Convention, that we will consider ourselves as active and working members of a general railying committee, whose especial duty it shall be to work earnestly, from this day till the day of election, to secure the success of our cause, and to bring out the largest possible vote for our candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the Free Democracy of the several towns in the Commonwealth to take immediate measures to put their ticket in the field, and to place their respective towns, a copy of the speech of Gen. Wilson to his constituents of Natick, upon the subject of the new Constitution.

The resolves were adopted unanimously.

Mr. Sumner was detained by ill health from being present at the Convention. He wrote a letter, however, stating the issues involved in the approaching election, from which we make the following extract:

"Two objects are directly presented in the coming election, and to both our organization in Massachusetts will stand pledged.

"The first, is to uphold the truly NATIONAL policy, originally declared at Buffalo, which seeks to make Freedom *National* and Slavery *Sectional*, as they were at the first organization of the Government, instead of Slavery National and Freedom Sectional, as to our shame is the case now. These are words which I like to repeat, because they embody a fundamental principle—instilling into which a wise conservatism and a wise reform—which should never pass out of mind. The establishment of this principle—carrying with it the suppression of the unconstitutional usurpation of Slavery National Territories, in the National District of Columbia, in the National sanction of the coastwise slave trade, and in that crowning National monstrosity, the Fugitive Slave Law, will finally remove the whole subject of Slavery from the sphere of National politics; and this is the only settlement of the Slavery Question with which the Free Democracy can consent, as it is the only settlement which is truly in harmony with the Constitution and with the spirit of the Fathers. And to this consummation, without equivocation or compromise, we devote ourselves. We may die soon; but this principle will live.

"The second object before us is to sustain the recent Constitutional Convention, which was originally called by the Free Democracy votes. The amended Constitution is now on trial before the people. As a faithful, well-considered, honest work of reform, embodying many changes of unquestioned good, and providing ample means, beyond all former precedent, for securing others hereafter, it has claims on all who sincerely desire the public weal. It may not in all respects satisfy, through high idea of what the Constitution of this powerful, enlightened, and refined Commonwealth should be; but, beyond all question, it is better than the existing Constitution; and this is an all-sufficient recommendation. The blind or selfish partisan may oppose it; but I do not see how the thoughtful patriot can withhold from it his support. It adopted, the Commonwealth will mark an era of progress in Massachusetts. The Liberal Cause, in every form, will derive from it new power.

"To maintain those two purposes at this juncture, the Convention will nominate candidates among the well-tried men of the Free Democracy. I have confidence in their judgment, and do not doubt that the people will powerfully second, at the polls, all their recommendations.

"Believe me, dear sir, faithfully yours,

"CHARLES SUMNER.

"*Hon. E. L. Keyes, Sec'y State Committee, &c.*"

For the National Era.

CONVENTION OF FREE DEMOCRATS.

In accordance with previous notice, a Convention of Free Democrats was held in the Court-house, Washington, Pennsylvania, August 30th, 1853. The Hon. Thomas Bickham, Mr. William Caldwell was chosen President *pro tem.*, and J. W. McKeever, Secretary.

On motion, Samuel McFarland, Isaac Sutherland, Jacob George, E. J. Agnew, and Jacob George, were appointed a committee to prepare business for the Convention. The Convention then adjourned to meet at one o'clock.

Afternoon Session.

The President, Mr. Alexander Sweeny, being present, took the chair. The committee on business committee reported the following resolutions, which, after discussion, were adopted:

Resolved, That we renew the resolution adopted at Pittsburgh, 1848, that the tenth article of the Pittsburgh Platform, in the following words, "that no permanent settlement of the Slavery Question can be looked for, except in the adoption of the Wilmot Proviso, the great end of Government, viz: the protection of the rights of each individual against infringement, alike, from other individuals, and from the State, requiring the Free Democracy to establish rights, with the fewest possible privileges, shall guaranty to labor its rewards with the fewest possible burdens, and which, by protecting the weak against the strong, the minority against the tyranny of majorities, and the rights of labor, shall secure to them enlarged means and opportunities for intellectual, moral, and religious improvement."

4. General laws for all, and special laws for the privileged few.

5. A sound and safe currency, with ample security, for the redemption of all notes in specie.

6. Limitation of the length of the sessions of the Legislature, and the reduction of its expenses.

7. The abolition of the property qualification for the offices of Governor and Lieut. Governor.

8. The guaranty of the elective franchise, as a right belonging to freemen, and not a privilege to be bought of superiors or conferred on vassals.

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10. The restoration of Harvard College to the purposes of its foundation. The college founded by the people of Massachusetts, and Massachusetts is a great extent by their money, should be devoted to their interests, and responsible, like the other colleges of the State, to their representatives.

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