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☞We desire to call attention to the notice which such correspondents, in all cases, where copies are sent, to give the *county*, as well as post office and State. One correspondent writes, "It is of no consequence to give the name of the county." It is of consequence to us, and it is of consequence the name of subscribers till we ascertain the county. Let every name be distinctly written.

☞Agents and others, when sending names, are requested to be very particular, and have each letter distinct. Give the name of the *Post Office*, the *County*, and the *State*.

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☞In transcribing names, it is probable that errors have occurred. Our friends are requested to notify us in such cases, that they may be immediately corrected.

☞Agents will notice that we keep an account with each subscriber. Hence no accounts will be kept with the agents; and in transmitting money on which they are entitled to a commission, they will retain the amount of their commission, and, *in all cases*, forward the money with the names, so as to make the account with the subscriber correct.

☞Any clergyman who will procure four subscribers, and send us eight dollars, may have a fifth copy gratis for any one of the four.

L. P. NOBLE, *Publisher.*

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 7, 1847.

ANTI-COMPROMISE WHIGS.

From the Norfolk (Mass.) American.

THE TRUE ISSUE.

It is well known that, conceding to the Democratic party in the free States all that it possesses at the time of its latest exhibit, there is a power of numbers remaining, which, if united in a common purpose, and stimulated by high and liberal aims, is amply sufficient to contend successfully with the forces of slavery and its natural and mercenary allies. To unite, then, these scattered elements, has become the great desideratum of the politician, as well as of the patriot and philanthropist. To enter the conflict, fighting under distinct and separate banners, but pledged, universal defeat, must be the doom of all. Union, and union alone, can afford any chance or hope of success. The principles put forth and advocated in Conway's speech, shatterdly, and in their application to the administration and administrators of the Federal Government, constitute, as we have seen, the covering (shall it be said?) under which essential union may be brought about and consolidated. We have, then, the power, and we have been taught how it can be made available to success; and the question presents itself, will all the authority and magnitude of a forlorn hope, What are we to do?

In a national point of view, the Whig party has been successful but once in the last half century. Upon the old issues—such as at the commencement of each successive quadrennial contest it has presented to be contended for—its prospects would be more hopeless than ever. Among the old weapons with which it has been wont to go forth to battle with its enemies, the tariff question has proved far the most potent, as it addressed itself to the pockets of the people; but even this ponderous political war-club has been shorn of its strength, by the energy and rapidity with which the manufacturers of this country have been pushed forward into successful competition with those of the old world. The slave power, in the meantime, has been accumulating for the extension of its territories, and the daring and violent measures which five successive slave Administrations have put forward, in the hope of it holds all the powers of the National Government in its desperate grasp. It seeks, and thus far successfully, to perpetuate the differences which it originally occasioned between the people of the North, whom it has set madly to combat with each other, only that the great Southern Centrifugal—the slaveholding oligarchy—may swallow them both more conveniently by piecemeal.

What are we to do? Are we to waste our energies in a new contest upon nothing but the old worn-out "issues" which have long lost their enchantment? Are we to rally again under the torn and faded banners which have, with but a single exception for fifty years, led to no harvest but defeat? Are we to be forever deprived of the glories of success, by following the dictates of misers, who would barter their liberties for a guinea, or of those who would sell their birthright like aspens at the sound of the slave-driver's threats? We undertake to say, that all the old Whig banner inscriptions—Protection, Hard Money, the Bank, the Sub-Treasury, the Public Lands, Internal Improvements, &c., have no power to charm away the people from the new issues which have arisen in the contest of Freedom against Slavery, Justice against Oppression, and the rights of the North against the domination and tyranny of the South. Conway's speech combines in itself the essential principles which are to become—and, if we take the basis of a great Northern party—a party not yet perfectly evolved, but one which has already for its progeny the Free Soil party, the Democratic out of Boston; two of the ablest Whig papers in that city, and several Liberty and Democratic papers in this State and New Hampshire.

From the Cleveland True Democrat.

SLAVERY, AS A POLITICAL QUESTION.

When the present party lines were drawn, slavery as a political question had no existence. Beside it, the tariff, the bank, the sub-treasury, and the disposal of the public lands, sink into comparative insignificance. As might be expected, it is making new and strange divisions in these parties. In the Democracy, there is the Calhoun branch, grasping at the Rio Grande, knowing that, if obtained, it will all be devoted to slavery. Then there is the Dallas division, comprehending the Cass and Benton interest, grasping for California, calculating that the extension of the Missouri compromise line will settle the question of slavery. Then there is, again, the Silas Wright interest, opposed to the acquisition of territory unless it is settled, before it shall be acquired, that slavery shall be excluded from it. In the Whig party, those of the North are unanimously opposed to the extension of slavery; those of the South as unanimously in favor of its extension. All of the Southern Whigs, and a part of the Northern, vote men and money to carry on the war; while a great and increasing majority of the Northern Whigs oppose the prosecution of the war in its *present* form, and all measures. Thus, upon the most important political measure now agitating the country, all is confusion.

But notwithstanding this confusion of parties, there are men who understand each others' language, who unite heart and hand in opposing the extension of slavery, the acquisition of territory, and the prosecution of the war. Among this number is the great mass of the Northern Whigs. We rank ourselves among the number. These men are bewildered, and know not what to do, when one whose voice they *know*, and whom it will be safe to follow.

Believing, when the *True Democrat* was first published, that this question of slavery was destined to be the ruling political question at the next Presidential election, we took an early opportunity to declare our uncompromising hostility to it, and to express our opinion of the stand which the men must occupy on this subject from we should support for President and Vice President. We quote from our first editorial. There for the time being we felt disposed to leave the matter. Among the same stable leaders with the same regard for the public welfare, the same careful watchfulness over the interests of all, which has so long characterized the legislation of Massachusetts as a State, and which would have characterized it still more, but for the untoward influence of national politics upon those of the State. The sooner we come to a fair trial of strength, the better. Rather it will be for the State, the nation, and for all mankind.

From the Cleveland True Democrat.

IFS AND BUTS.

While many Whig papers oppose in a bold and becoming spirit the effort to elevate Gen. Taylor to the Presidency, others are more careful, and cautiously inform their readers, with numerous *buts*. They would wish to be understood as opposed to the movement, *but* should the Whig party put forward a candidate, to have him thrust upon it, they will support him.

These *ifs* and *buts* never will do at the present crisis. There is a sacred principle at stake. The march of the slave power is onward, in the guilt of the people, in order "*to put down the anti-slavery feeling of the country.*" Shall we hesitate, quibbly terms, tether, and submit; or shall we, like true friends of freedom, stand by our principles, and, for further aggressions of the slave power, with that dignity, fearlessness, and candor, that becomes freemen? There shall be no faltering or trembling—the question should be met at once. Says an Esthen paper, "Here is a positive shareholder put forward, to put down Liberty, and put up Slavery Does he deserve even a *hypothetical* vote? This is the most important moment of the great political battle. Opinion is now in the grizzle. It has been largely right, at tending the right way. Now comes a mighty influence to turn it all wrong, and fasten it there. Tens of thousands are in a state of doubt, their anti-slavery principles are beginning to shake, in their minds, from excess of doubt, a quantity of *ifs*, a pile of hypotheses from the anti-slavery standard bearers, to give our enemies a vastly far more complete hold Taylor's at Buena Vista. Of-hand, it really seems to us that in such a state of facts, every doubt, if, and hypothesis, should be sunk to the bottomless pit, and the principle be hoisted at the mast-head, and fixed there with nails, NO SLAVEHOLDER, NO INSTRUMENT OF THE SLAVEHOLDERS' WAR, FOR THE PRESIDENT. We can see no good reason for an editor's proceeding with reserve and caution, for his not running away from his party, when he would lead that party up to the right; but when his party is rushing headlong into wrong and disgrace, we cannot see the wisdom of any sort of reserve."

From the Salem (Mass.) Gazette.

THE WILMOT PROVISO.

We have had no doubt, for some time past, that the paramount principle in the coming Presidential election ought to be that of the Wilmot Proviso—freedom for the territory now owned by the territory. The people of the free States, without distinction of party, we hold to be bound to the maintenance of this principle, not only upon constitutional and patriotic principles, but also from a decent self-respect and enlightened care for their own interest. We have feared that these considerations might be lost sight of in the excitement excited by the victories and persecutions of Gen. Taylor, and the terse simplicity of his despatches. At this moment, we believe that it would be so; but it seems to us impossible, when the time of the election comes on, the slaveholders themselves may drive the people of the free States into a definitive position. We have no doubt that if we are about to quote from Governor Brown, of Mississippi, may have a tendency to promote a healthy reaction.

COMPROMISE WHIGS.

From the Boston Courier.

HERO WORSHIP.

The progress of Hero Worship is truly alarming. The war in which we are engaged has already diffused a military taste among the people, which tends to nothing but a corruption of morals, and the utter extinction of every truly patriotic sentiment; for the spirit which exults in the success of an aspiring hero, has no affinity with the spirit of patriotism. The latter seeks to make men happy, by teaching them habits of industry, the arts of peace, and the acquisition of Christianity, philosophy, and morals; the former brutalizes a nation, and "bids defiance to the unarmed philosopher and politician, who bring into the field of battle without a spear, and Argument unbacked by artillery."

All wars begot *Heroes*, as naturally (and almost as rapidly) as filthy putrefaction generates the more skill and science in the work of butchery the greater the Hero, and the sooner he arrives at the zenith of glory. Thus General Zachary Taylor, who a few months ago was not half as celebrated as "General Tom Thumb," has become the idol of a host of worshippers, whose name is Legion. The public mind (unfortunately too much thoroughly) debauched with the doctrines of Hero Worship. The Press lends its aid in the dissemination of these pernicious doctrines and the unchristianlike and unpatriotic sentiments of despotism that can be inflicted on a nation. Some of the most influential journals have the name of Taylor written on the Double Dea capitals at the head of their editorial columns as candidate for the Presidency, as if success in murdering men, women, and children, by hundreds and thousands, were all that is desired for the office, and the mere shadow of a people who boast of their magnanimity and love of justice. Editors, whose moral sensibilities are in convulsions if they see an advertisement covering twelve lines, are in raptures, and in the eagerness every paragraph that glorifies the conductor or character of this military chieftain, and present to the public every trifle that can please. Political principles, and opinions in regard to subjects hitherto thought to be of the utmost importance to the prosperity of the country, are no longer thought of; all that is now considered necessary to have buried all their ancient animosities, and to vie with each other in a new contest, to decide whether the Hero shall be Hero, or Hero, or Hero. One journal (we do not recollect *what* one, but we have seen it within a week) disclaims all solicitude in relation to his political partiaship, and is anxious for the success of the Hero, and insults in the most unchristian manner the editors of the Boston Courier, who have the *goodness* to portray those features in his character, and recite some of those acts of his, which give him a claim to idolatry. We are the more anxious on this point, because we should be glad, for once in our life, to be one of a political majority, and at the same time *be sure that we are right*. Only satisfy us that General Taylor is truly deserving of the approbation of the wise, the humane, and the patriotic, and we will heartily unite in everything adopted to do honor to his virtues, although we will give no pledge to become a worshipper in the temple of his fame, or

"To stroke the pregnant hinges of the knee,
Where thrift may follow fawning."

We are aware that it is said by the worshippers, that General Taylor does no more than fulfil his duty to his country, and therefore he is with all the power of his arm and his intellect. He has been bred a soldier, in the service of his country, and he must not disobey the orders of the President. There is no other alternative; he must obey or resign. Miserable apology—contemptible subterfuge. Let him resign his commission. He has himself pronounced the war unnecessary, unjust, and cruel. He used language similar to this, if we remember rightly, in his letter to Henry Clay, announcing the loss of Mr. Clay's son. He there pronounced his own condemnation. If he admits that the war is unnecessary, unjust, and cruel, he cannot escape from the consequence of his admission—namely, that he who voluntarily carries it on successfully, is guilty of gratuitous bloodshed and cruelty. The Hero has placed in a position where he cannot, without disobedience to his superior, refrain from the commission of acts which his conscience tells him are opposite to the great God and humanity, then he can plain, straightforward path for him to pursue. If his orders are to ravage a neighboring State, to rob and murder the peaceful citizens of Massachusetts as a State, and which would have characterized it still more, but for the untoward influence of national politics upon those of the State. The sooner we come to a fair trial of strength, the better. Rather it will be for the State, the nation, and for all mankind.

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the regiment that charged at Buena Vista, and for whom, in common with the labor of the North and South, as well as for all the interests of posterity, this doctrine of the Wilmot proviso is preached. We thank our correspondent for characterizing us as its "zealous champion."

REMEMBER IT.

Hon. John Wentworth, speaking of the nomination of General Taylor by the Whigs, and its sanction by Mr. Calhoun, says:

"Of course Mr. Calhoun, and all desirous to keep up slave-breeding and to extend slave territory, will go for a President who has the firmness to veto the Wilmot proviso. The Southern slaveholders will go for General Taylor on principle, and Northern Whigs on glory and patronage!!

"Already galled with Southern tyranny, the free States were about to break their shackles when, according to Whig predictions, General Taylor is selected as the only man who can keep these shackles upon them for four years longer. Will the North ever have another President?"

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 10, 1847.

LETTERS FROM THE EDITOR.

MATTERS AND THINGS IN VIRGINIA.

STONY CREEK, SUSSEX Co., VA., *June 1, 1847.*

To the Readers of the Era:

Some two years and a half ago, as many of my old readers may remember, I had the pleasure of sending them occasional letters from this, the lower, part of Virginia. Sussex county adjoins Southampton, the scene of Nat Turner's insurrection, and contains a large slave population. The *Era* was lately denounced by a meeting in New York, because it had not provoked a mob in Washington. Probably I shall incur similar denunciation, for being able to avoid a coat of tar and feathers in the heart of the slaveholding region. But it is no difficult matter to do this. Whatever of an idol slavery may be among slaveholders in Virginia, they do not ask a stranger to fall down and worship it, nor would they respect him for volunteering any superfluous complacency towards it.

Mr. Calhoun's dogma about the blessedness of slavery has never got foothold in this State. No matter what prostitute politicians or preachers may preach, it would take a great deal to convince me that the *people* of Virginia have changed their opinions in relation to the "great evil" of slavery. I have yet to see the Virginian who does not regard it as a curse.

The next census will reveal startling facts concerning the population of this State, both bond and free. This county is a specimen of a large portion of Virginia. Its old families are disappearing—some removing to the South, some to the West. Fifty years ago, the children were educated without being sent abroad; they then turned up in manhood yet no disgrace to labor with their fathers in the fields, on which they subsequently settled. Times have changed. Slaves have multiplied, and with their increase have come unthrift, bad farming, laziness, pride. The land is exhausted. It takes all the negroes earn to give the children a costly education abroad; and when they have got it, labor is the last thing they think of; home presents but few attractions, and they abandon the State, of which they still make their boast. Their parents soon follow; one, one by one, the old families pass away. The melancholy truth is springing up in deserted fields. As you pass along, you see a gaunt unhinged: the path leading to that house, with its crumbling chimney and sashless windows, is grown up with thin, pale grass. Of many an old settlement, nothing remains but the well with its broken bucket, and a few neglected graves. Such a country is full of the poetry of desolation. There is nothing in it new or cheerful. All points it is the contrast of the rushing, turbid world of the West. Everything is still. Nobody makes haste. The white sands gleam in the hot sunshine; vegetation creeps so slowly through a lean soil. The dark creeks steal through gloomy forests, as if afraid of the rustling of a leaf. You travel in the woods through a long, and a sunless, of pines, where the road is but wide enough for one carriage, no one dreaming of the possibility of meeting another equipage.

And there is no help for all this, while slavery shall continue. The incrtness of slave labor is death to all improvement. Let the master attempt to introduce any new mode of cultivation, or any improvement in new his hands, and the slaves will laugh at him. They can't be driven out of the old ruts, and the slaveholder of Virginia hardly loves money well enough to fret himself about it.

The sale of slaves to the South is carried to a great extent. The slaveholders do not, so far as I can learn, raise them for that special purpose. But, have an man with a score of slaves, located on an exhausted plantation. It must furnish support for all; but while they increase, its capacity of supply decreases. The result is, he must emancipate or sell. But he has fallen into debt, and he sells to relieve himself from debt, and also from an excess of mouths. Or, he requires money to educate his children; or, his negroes are sold under execution. From these and other causes, large numbers of slaves are continually disappearing from the State, so that the next census will undoubtedly show a marked diminution of the slave population.

The season for this trade is generally from November to April, and some estimate that the average number of slaves passing by the Southern railroad weekly, during that period of six months, is at least two hundred. A slave trader told me that he had known one hundred pass in a single night. But this is only one route. Large numbers are sent off westwardly, and also by sea, coastwise. The Davises, in Petersburg, are the great slave dealers. They are Jews, who came to that place many years ago as poor pedlars; and, I am informed, are members of a family which has its representatives in Philadelphia, New York, &c.! There men are always in the market, giving the highest price for slaves. During the summer and fall they buy them up at low prices, trim, shave, wash them, fatten them so that they may look sleek, and sell them to great profit. It might not be unprofitable to inquire how much Northern capital, and what firms in some of the Northern cities, are connected with this detestable business.

There are many planters here who cannot be persuaded to sell their slaves. They have far more than they can find work for, and could at any time obtain a high price for them. The temptation is strong, for they want more money and fewer dependants. But they resist it, and nothing can induce them to part with a single slave, though they know that they would be greatly the gainers in a pecuniary sense, were they to sell one-half of them. Such men are too good to be slaveholders. Would that they might see it their duty to go one step further, and become emancipators! The majority of this class of planters are religious men, and this is the class to which generally are to be referred the various cases of emancipation *by will*, of which from time to time we hear accounts.

I have made some inquiry as to the ability of slaves to read in this region, but estimates differ. A gentleman, who was born and has always lived here, says there is one or more of the slaves on almost every plantation that can read. Another, a large planter, says that on an average not one in fifty can read. Another, net one in a thousand. There are laws against teaching them to read, but they certainly are not rigidly enforced, perhaps because no attempt worthy of notice is made to teach them. We asked a large slaveholder what possible objection there could be to giving the Bible to the slaves? He could not see any; he seemed to think it might be a benefit. Can there be a doubt of this? Is not God, the God of the slave as well as of the free? Has He not revealed Himself for the benefit of all? Is there a word that He has spoken that should not be read and pondered by every creature whom He has made? Good God! what a treasure were thy Book to the poor, degraded bondman! The source of Light, it would also be a fountain of Peace. G. B.

THE EVIL—THE REMEDY.

STONY CREEK, SUSSEX Co., VA., *June 3, 1847.*

DEAR READER: Slavery is undoubtedly doomed in this State. *It does not pay.* From beginning to end, it is a losing concern. Land is continually decreasing in value. Not far hence is a tract of 1,400 acres, well timbered, and lying along a creek, which, twenty years ago, brought from $18 to $20 an acre. It was sold, five years ago, for $6 or $7! The people are not blind to these things. Nobody denies that slavery is at the bottom of the mischief; but all seem paralyzed at the magnitude of the evil. They hope that, under the operation of the causes I have mentioned, the continual drain of the slave population to the South, may, in the course of forty or fifty years, relieve them of the incubus. But, what a process to depend upon! To the slaves, impoverishing to the State. While this process shall continue, the soil will grow leaner, the price of land will diminish, emigration of the white population will increase, so that this ancient and venerable commonwealth, in many parts, will be depopulated. It is a most painful subject.

Could these estimable people (for estimable many are, despite the circumstances surrounding them) only overcome their prejudices, look at the principle of emancipation *upon the soil* in its true light, and as illustrated by the working of the Free Labor system in the West Indies, they would see, at once, the clew to lead them out of all their difficulties. The great mistake they now make is, in judging of the effects of emancipation, as in the settled policy of the State, by its effects in a *few exceptional cases.* A small number of slaves, from time to time, has been liberated, the great mass still remaining in bondage. They are degraded, because nearly all their brethren are still slaves; outcasts, because nobody cares for their welfare; idle and thriftless, because they can obtain no regular employment, there being almost always an excess of slave labor; and because, while slave labor shall predominate, they cannot expect greatly to better their condition by any amount of industry. They are regarded with dislike and suspicion, because their presence and free association with the slaves tend to render the latter discontented. In fact, the two classes injure each other.

Now, it seems to us, that every reflecting mind, if divested of prejudice, must see that these evils prove nothing, except that two modes of labor, so directly and completely antagonistic as *free* and *slave* labor, *cannot co-exist.* Where free labor is the general system, slave labor cannot prevail; it may exist for a time, but it must soon become extinct. Where slave labor is the system, free white labor is expelled or repelled, and free black labor debased to the point of utter worthlessness. There is no alternative: *all the laborers must be free, or all slaves.*

Supposo, then, the public sentiment of Virginia to be so changed that, by an act of the requisite power, all the slaves of the State were to be *made free at once.* See the operation of the new order of things. Labor would be elevated to a rank of comparative respectability, and so cease to be repulsive. As all would be free, all would have one interest, and the whole free white population to be rendered discontented by the presence of a small class of degraded freemen; they would all have equal chances for employment, there being no longer any competition between free and slave labor. As all would be free, every one would be thrown upon his own resources, be compelled by his necessities to labor, and at the same time have an additional motive to industry, in the fact, that it held out a reasonable hope of profit by betitering his condition. *Now*, it is the interest of the State that the whole black population should be kept in ignorance. *Then*, it would be no less its interest that all should be educated; for, while no harm would result from their enlightenment, it is easy to see how their efficiency as producers, and good habits generally, would be increased by their intelligence. The slave who now has half a dozen families of slaves, furnishing fifteen or twenty hands to do the work of a limited plantation, and fifteen or twenty more non-workers, to consume a large portion of the fruits of their slovenly husbandry, would then be relieved of a wasting burden, and by the hired labor of eight or ten of the freedmen secure a large portion of the fruits of his land for himself. The rest of his old force would either find employment with the immigrants whom the great change would attract to the State, or become themselves the principal cultivators of the land that slavery has thrown out to waste.

But why speculate on this subject, when the experience of the West India emancipation has thrown a flood of light upon it? A commission of enlightened men of Virginia, will be should proceed to the British West Indies, make a full examination of the operation and results of emancipation there, and then lay the facts before the people of this State, would rank among the greatest of public benefactors. G. B.

REMINISCENCES, ETC.

STONY CREEK, SUSSEX Co., VA., *June 3, 1847.*

DEAR READER: A day or two since, I visited the old homestead, described in my letter dated in the fall of 1844. There it still stood, unchanged, with its peaked roof, and unpainted porch, polished by age and long use; and bright, slippery floors; and its unseiled, ancient furniture, with the little enclosure hard by, where rest the remains of its departed patriarch; and with the everlasting trees throwing its gigantic arms over all. All things seemed as they were, except where touched by the finger of Decay. Families may abandon their homes, but not alter them. In a ride the other day, I noticed a striking exception to this remark. There stood, a little distance from the roadside, an old, weather-beaten mansion, which, though once painted, had long since parted with its artificial covering, except a faint shadow here and there, in spots comparatively secure against vicissitude. Its windows covered roof, and little grim-looking windows, and dilapidated condition generally, would have furnished quite a respectable picture of decay, and it not been for a "bran-new" porch and a new window-shutter, with which its irreverent limmate had ventured to patch it. We suppose he contemplated, at first, improvements on a large scale, but became frightened at his own temerity. He might as well have attempted to patch with broadcloth the venerable buckskins of his grandfather.

Mr. Polk passed along a few nights ago, with his Maecenas, to attend the commencement at Raleigh. "His Excellency," amid the turmoil of war, seems disposed to keep his heart open to the charms of literature. His loving supporters, of whom he has many in this region, were much disappointed at not seeing him.

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Could these estimable people (for estimable many are, despite the circumstances surrounding them) only overcome their prejudices, look at the principle of emancipation *upon the soil* in its true light, and as illustrated by the working of the Free Labor system in the West Indies, they would see, at once, the clew to lead them out of all their difficulties. The great mistake they now make is, in judging of the effects of emancipation, as in the settled policy of the State, by its effects in a *few exceptional cases.* A small number of slaves, from time to time, has been liberated, the great mass still remaining in bondage. They are degraded, because nearly all their brethren are still slaves; outcasts, because nobody cares for their welfare; idle and thriftless, because they can obtain no regular employment, there being almost always an excess of slave labor; and because, while slave labor shall predominate, they cannot expect greatly to better their condition by any amount of industry. They are regarded with dislike and suspicion, because their presence and free association with the slaves tend to render the latter discontented. In fact, the two classes injure each other.

Now, it seems to us, that every reflecting mind, if divested of prejudice, must see that these evils prove nothing, except that two modes of labor, so directly and completely antagonistic as *free* and *slave* labor, *cannot co-exist.* Where free labor is the general system, slave labor cannot prevail; it may exist for a time, but it must soon become extinct. Where slave labor is the system, free white labor is expelled or repelled, and free black labor debased to the point of utter worthlessness. There is no alternative: *all the laborers must be free, or all slaves.*

Suppose, then, the public sentiment of Virginia to be so changed that, by an act of the requisite power, all the slaves of the State were to be *made free at once.* See the operation of the new order of things. Labor would be elevated to a rank of comparative respectability, and so cease to be repulsive. As all would be free, all would have one interest, and the whole free white population to be rendered discontented by the presence of a small class of degraded freemen; they would all have equal chances for employment, there being no longer any competition between free and slave labor. As all would be free, every one would be thrown upon his own resources, be compelled by his necessities to labor, and at the same time have an additional motive to industry, in the fact, that it held out a reasonable hope of profit by betitering his condition. *Now*, it is the interest of the State that the whole black population should be kept in ignorance. *Then*, it would be no less its interest that all should be educated; for, while no harm would result from their enlightenment, it is easy to see how their efficiency as producers, and good habits generally, would be increased by their intelligence. The slave who now has half a dozen families of slaves, furnishing fifteen or twenty hands to do the work of a limited plantation, and fifteen or twenty more non-workers, to consume a large portion of the fruits of their slovenly husbandry, would then be relieved of a wasting burden, and by the hired labor of eight or ten of the freedmen secure a large portion of the fruits of his land for himself. The rest of his old force would either find employment with the immigrants whom the great change would attract to the State, or become themselves the principal cultivators of the land that slavery has thrown out to waste.

But why speculate on this subject, when the experience of the West India emancipation has thrown a flood of light upon it? A commission of enlightened men of Virginia, will should proceed to the British West Indies, make a full examination of the operation and results of emancipation there, and then lay the facts before the people of this State, would rank among the greatest of public benefactors. G. B.

REMINISCENCES, ETC.

STONY CREEK, SUSSEX Co., VA., *June 3, 1847.*

DEAR READER: A day or two since, I visited the old homestead, described in my letter dated in the fall of 1844. There it still stood, unchanged, with its peaked roof, and unpainted porch, polished by age and long use; and bright, slippery floors; and its unseiled, ancient furniture, with the little enclosure hard by, where rest the remains of its departed patriarch; and with the everlasting trees throwing its gigantic arms over all. All things seemed as they were, except where touched by the finger of Decay. Families may abandon their homes, but not alter them. In a ride the other day, I noticed a striking exception to this remark. There stood, a little distance from the roadside, an old, weather-beaten mansion, which, though once painted, had long since parted with its artificial covering, except a faint shadow here and there, in spots comparatively secure against vicissitude. Its windows covered roof, and little grim-looking windows, and dilapidated condition generally, would have furnished quite a respectable picture of decay, and it not been for a "bran-new" porch and a new window-shutter, with which its irreverent limmate had ventured to patch it. We suppose he contemplated, at first, improvements on a large scale, but became frightened at his own temerity. He might as well have attempted to patch with broadcloth the venerable buckskins of his grandfather.

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THE CONDITION, POLICY, AND PROSPECTS OF THE WHIG PARTY.

STONY CREEK, SUSSEX Co., VA., *June 4, 1847.*

DEAR READER: On the first page of the *Era* you will find materials for the formation of an opinion of the present condition of the Whig party. A few Whigs in some of the free States, chiefly in Northern Ohio, stand pledged against the support of General Taylor, or any other slaveholding candidate for the Presidency. A larger and more influential class is unfriendly to his nomination, hostile to any slaveholding nomination, but not prepared to carry this feeling to the extent of separation from the party. It will acquiesce in the action of the majority. The third class, embracing the majority, and specially represented by the press of the *cities*, condemns, unqualifiedly, the attempt to make *non-slaveholding* a test in the party nomination, with a few exceptions, is decidedly favorable to the claims of General Taylor, and, although professing strong repugnance to the extension of slavery, (a profession in most instances sincere,) would, in the last resort, rather yield a little on this point, than forego a party triumph. This class is the controlling element of the party, and will undoubtedly dictate its policy.

So much for the Whigs in the free States. Their brethren in the slave States are of course identified with slavery, and can have no sympathy with the first class of Whigs. For the sake of conciliating the second class, and relieving the third from an unfavorable position, they had tacitly yielded to a sort of understanding, according to which the Presidential candidate for 1848 was to be selected by their free State brethren; and, had it not been for an unexpected contingency, we have little doubt that the favored personage would have been a distinguished Judge of the Supreme Court. That force was the sudden enthusiasm created by the achievements of General TAYLOR—an enthusiasm rendered more fervid by reports of persecution and exposure to which he had been subjected, it was said, by a jealous Administration. Never light broke in upon party councils. The old Clay papers, unfriendly to the claims of any other civilian than the Great Rejected, sent up a shout to Heaven in favor of Taylor. The whole tribe of *availability*-men, who had distrusted the previous arrangements of the party, and had been tossed about among distressing doubts, saw *terra firma* again, and at once proclaimed Taylor the man for the hour. And "our Southern brethren" were relieved. What to send! just when they had made up their minds to swallow a Northern nomination, to be saved from the necessity of taking such a pill! But they were discreet. Not too eager did they seem, willing rather that Northern presses should take the lead in nominating, by acclamation, a slaveholder for the Presidency. And so, by the united voice of the Whig party, Whig papers, and many public meetings, General Taylor is the candidate of the great Whig party. A few Whig journals still pretend that the question of a nomination is unsettled; but this is mere pretence. So large is the majority already committed, that a National Convention will have nothing to do but ratify the nomination. Some had cherished a faint hope that the Military Chieftain would decline; but, although he is modest, as all great men should be, like all great men, too, he does not "feel at liberty" to decline any service to which the voice of his country may call him.

If a mere change of Administration; if the success of the Whigs, so that they may enjoy the spoils; if the temporary cohesion of their party; if the continued predominance of the slave power; if any one or all of these objects be alone contemplated by this movement, it may be safely pronounced a most adroit one. That it will succeed, we have little doubt. The "glory" of the warrior is always attractive to the multitude. Physical courage, unexcelled even by Perry, can be appreciated by the most vulgar-minded. There is enough uncertainty, too, about General Taylor's politics to afford many a martial Democrat an excuse for indulging his taste for glory. And in the South, being, as is often said here, the only Southern man who can be elected, it is no wonder that so many meetings "without distinction of party" should be held in his favor.

But, apart from the objects specified, what a strange movement does this seem! It involves, on the part of the Whigs, an utter abnegation of all principle, all consistency. They have denounced the policy of making the camp the stepping-stone to the Presidential chair. Now they are anxious to place in that chair a man smoking with the blood of battle, and known only as a warrior! They have anathematized the Mexicans of 1840 wicked and infamous, but they are resolved to crown with highest honor him who has made *wickedness* triumphant, and *infamy* "glorious." They pass sentence of condemnation upon Mr. Polk for having ordered the march of the army to the Rio Grande—a step which they declare was the immediate cause of the war—and then would make a President of the man who first recommended that measure. They pronounce the extension of slavery the greatest curse that can befall this nation, and yet can think of nothing else than electing to the Presidency, and investing with the veto power, one whose whole interest is identified with slavery, and who would doubtless veto any bill excluding it from new territory! They profess to believe that the Constitution, in relation to domestic industry and tariffs, finance and banking, internal improvements and public lands, are vital to the Republic, the only true basis of its welfare; and yet they not only know nothing certainly of the political principles of their favorite candidate, but have taken extraordinary pains to keep themselves in the dark. Senator Cameron, of Pennsylvania, published a letter, in which he declares that he has understood, from intimate friends of General Taylor, that he was always regarded as democratic in his views of public policy; and we have seen no opposing testimony of equal weight. But the Whig leaders want no light upon the subject, though they are firmly convinced the country will be rained unless their *principles* are carried out. Their "*principles!*" The committee of correspondence, appointed by the great meeting at Philadelphia, (a meeting reported to be "without distinction of party,") to notify General Taylor of his nomination, announces to him its desire that he should occupy the Presidential chair, "with no pledges but those contained in the official oath, at his inauguration," and "with the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution" as his "guides;" and it closes its letter with the following paragraph:

"The undersigned, under these circumstances, take the liberty of assuring you that they neither desire nor expect an answer to this communication!"

"*Look, before you leap,*" is a maxim of ordinary prudence. But these men profited so hugely by disregarding it in 1840, that they must try the experiment again. They will leap, *then* look, and perhaps catch—a Tyler. Such stultification too oftens marks the shabby politics of this country. Think of it—the whole Whig party tying itself hand and foot, blindfolding itself, and then delivering itself over, soul, body, and spirit, to the safekeeping of a man whose political principles they know nothing about, and whose ability to govern they only guess at! Such a movement may succeed for the time, but in the end will prove the death of the party responsible for it. Tactics like these will teach the people to discredit its principles, and laugh at its professions.

For ourselves, regarding this movement, and also those in the Democratic party, of which we gave some account two weeks ago, as calculated to weaken old party attachments, abate inordinate veneration for old political dogmas, and to contribute towards revolutionizing, if not breaking up, existing party organizations, we have concluded to take the advice of David—"Fret not thyself because of evil doers." G. B.

BOOKS, ETC.

STONY CREEK, SUSSEX Co., VA., *June 5, 1847.*

The "books in the running brooks," that Shakspeare's dreamer found, are highly delectable, but not quite so edifying as books in type. The other day, while rummaging an old library, my eye was caught by a venerable, dilapidated volume of 450 pages, entitled "*The Olive Branch.*" A few pages gave me such a relish for it, that I could not rest till I had devoured the whole. It is entitled "*The Olive Branch: or, Faults on Both Sides, Federal and Democratic. A Serious Appeal on the Necessity of Mutual Forgiveness and Harmony. By M. Carey.*" It went through six or more editions, and is certainly a remarkable work. Mr. Carey belonged to the Democratic school, but in this Appeal evidently aimed to mete out equal justice to all. His deep devotion to his adopted country and robust honesty are manifest in every page. The work is especially valuable as an exhibition of the political condition of the Union at the eventful period when it was written. No history can convey so clear a view of the state of the times or less never knew the imminent perils to which faction and sectionalism had subjected this Union, the desperate extremes to which party madness had gone, till we read this book. South Carolina of late years has not been more violent against the General Government than Massachusetts was just before and during the war; and as to the "Hartford Convention" days, when compared with the madness of politics in those days, they were together lamb-like. No one can read such a work as this—the speeches that were made in Congress, the appeals put forth by the press, the reports of State Legislatures, the inflammatory harangues from the pulpit—and note the debility of the Government, the lack of public spirit, the open, shameless attempts at disorganization, without thanking God that the Constitution, the Government appointed in these falsely-so-called degenerate days. The truth is, whatever the virtues of our ancestors of '76, those of the men of 1812 were at least a peg lower than our own.

Miscellanies of John Cotton Smith. New York: Harper & Brothers. For sale by Franck Taylor, Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, D. C.—This volume is scarcely entitled to take a place among "Books that are Books." I cannot exactly see why every man who has filled public station with credit, and has an LL. D. appended to his name, should have his mental remains collected and published. In many instances, it would be better to deposite them with the *mortal* remains. Mr. Smith was a highly respectable, honest man, of sterling moral principle, but of narrow and intolerant views upon political subjects. There is nothing in this volume worth a moment's reading, but his account of the Hartford Convention, a short narrative of the defence of Stonington, and a description of "Washington in 1800, with a brief notice of the first session of Congress in that city." All else is chaff.

Orators of the Age. By G. R. Fennies, Esq. New York: Harper & Brothers. For sale by——*.*—A very different book is this. It is a beautiful reprint of an English volume of portraits of her leading public men, by an author whose eloquence as a writer surpasses that of many of the speakers whom he has sketched with so masterly a hand. His analysis of the elements of character and power in Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell is altogether admirable. He is not always profound or even sound in his general observations; the temptation of a brilliant contrast sometimes leads him to exaggeration; he has a little too much reverence for high rank, does not understand clearly enough the philosophy of what Americans call progress; and is too much disposed to quarrel with a man of influence, ascending from what they call in other countries the lower classes. But, despite these faults, the book will be read with profound interest and profit by those who would know something of contemporary British statesmen, and can enjoy keen analysis of character and rare criticism on different styles of oratory.

Speaking of the philosophy of the thoughts and diction of the Duke of Wellington, he says, by the way, he extols beyond measure, Mr. Francis makes one remark, which looks almost as if intentionally ambiguous. "You meet nothing like it," he says, "in any other man now prominently before the public. *There is a rigorous economy of both thoughts and words!*" an economy, we presume, which he has cost the Duke no special trouble to attain.

Southey's Life of Wesley. New York: Harper & Brothers. For sale as above.—This is the second American edition of a work which has gone through several in England. It is doubtless the best and most attractive biography of its great subject which has ever been written. To attempt form a satisfactory or sound opinion of Wesley from any Life written by his devoted followers, is out of the question. To them he stands as an apostle, and they would almost as soon think of questioning the wisdom of St. Paul, as of Wesley. The edition is so got up, that if the reader fail to obtain a true insight into the character of one whose influence on the world has been so great, it will be his own fault. First, we have Wesley's own writings, correcting many things in which he thinks Mr. Southey erred; next, we have the benefit of Coleridge's notes, showing how differently two great minds will reason about the same thing; then the notes of the American editor, Dr. Daniel Curry, ever on the alert, where fault is found in the text, to find a virtue; finally, at the close are appended "Extracts from the Life and Character of John Wesley, by the late Alexander Knox, Esq." So that nobody, neither the Methodist nor the general reader, can complain

The work is printed in two volumes, in the usual neat and substantial style of Harper's publications.

The following little incident, related in all the biographies of this extraordinary man, shows upon what apparently insignificant acts the destinies of the world *seem* at times to hang:

"While Charles Wesley was at Westminster, under his brother, a gentleman of large fortune in Ireland, and of the same family name, wrote to the father, and inquired of him if he had a son named Charles; for, if so, he would make him his heir. Accordingly his school bills, during several years, were discharged by his unseen namesake. At length a gentleman, who is supposed to have been this Mr. Wesley, called upon him, and, after much conversation, asked him if he was willing to accompany him to Ireland. The youth desired to write to his father before he could make answer; the father left it to his own choice, but said, if he went, it might be the fair prospects which Christ Church opened to him, chose to stay in England. John Wesley, in his account of his brother, calls this a fair escape. The fact is more remarkable than he was aware of; for the person who inherited the property intended for Charles Wesley, and who took the name of Wesley, was the celebrated Marquis Wellesley, in consequence, was the first Earl of Mornington, grandfather of Marquis Wellesley and the Duke of Wellington. Had Charles taken a different choice, there might have been no Methodists, in British Isles, and India might still have been menaced from Seringapatam, and the undisputed tyrant of Europe might still have been insulted and endangered us on our own shores."

And so, if Columbus had been drowned, as he came very near being before his great voyage, America might not have been discovered, there might have been no United States, no negro slavery, no Mr. Polk or General Taylor! Just as if Almighty Providence did not seem to depend upon certain instrumentalities. Such speculations tickle the vanity of short-sighted mortals. America would have been discovered had no Columbus ever lived, and the despotism of Napoleon would have been crushed without a Wellington. The baker served his bread, as usual, though Louis was beheaded; and the world still went round, as if nothing had happened, when Mr. Polk left Washington, to worship the Moloch in North Carolina. G. B.

GLEANINGS.

STONY CREEK, SUSSEX Co., VA., *June 7, 1847.*

DEAR READER: Were it not for the feeling against emancipation, slavery would soon cease in this State by the voluntary action of slave owners. I know many cases where the slaves would be liberated, were it not for the obstacles interposed by the Legislature. One old lady owns little land and many slaves. She is a sexagenarian, without ever having gone twenty miles from home. With little worldly knowledge, her conscience becomes troubled on account of slavery, and she would make the way to free herself from all connection with it, she would do so. But emancipated slaves must be sent from the State within a twelve-month after they become free, and be supported in the interval. She knows nothing of society or its conditions beyond her own neighborhood or State. She has no advisers. Were she to strip herself of all she has, scarcely would it suffice for what she thinks the necessary outfit for the slaves. And thus are her conscientious scruples lulled, her good resolutions balked, and she continues a slaveholder. Such cases are by no means rare.

The disposition to emancipate by will is growing, but here again the law frequently postpones, if it do not defeat, the good intended by the testator. In this neighborhood, an old lady, at her death, supposing her landed estate sufficient to meet all obligations, bequeathed freedom to her slaves. Unfortunately, her estate failed to liquidate the debts by several thousand dollars, and, as the law holds the slaves liable for the debts of the master, they are now hired out till their net earnings shall suffice for that purpose. But it has been found that, as some of them are too old and some too young to be profitable, enough to liquidate union with you. The voice that raised the prejudices of millions would fail to do so now. No longer can the Saxon, the Celt, the Gaul, the Celt is united to the Saxon, in bonds that can never be broken." G. B.

THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY held its very large and very interesting meeting at Exeter Hall. Its report stated that a larger number of volumes of Scriptures have been printed than for several previous years, the number of translations of Scriptures, 69,000 in Bengalee, and 12,000 in Hindu, have been issued from the press; 79,549 tracts and 40,029 portions of the scriptures have been distributed in Bengal, and 1,000 copies of the Bible to the churches in India have amounted to 331—a larger number in one year than the mission has ever before had to report. In Africa, the chapel recently built has proved of great service. Eight thousand tracts in French and Broton have been circulated during the year, and a Sunday school book has been printed in that language. The Total number of members in all the churches of the mission, including Jamaica, is 36,163. The total receipts, for all purposes, are £28,223 11s. 7d. The expenditure, £26,399 2s.

THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY reports as follows:

Towards the regular and extraordinary expenditure - - - - £115,762 03 2

The ordinary annual expenditure, for 1846 - - - - - - - 111,534 08 8

Showing a balance of income over the expenditure - - - - - £4,227 14 6

"Through the kind and overruling providence of God, intercourse has been had with every mission of the Society throughout the world, however remote or inaccessible, and we have all the well-founded the prosperity, and even existence of some of the missions, have been mercifully averted or greatly mitigated; the malcontents for the most part have been preserved in the enjoyment of life and health; a few have returned for a season to recruit their strength in their native country, while the Immortal Throne has been called to their eternal reward in Heaven. Twenty-five new missionaries have been called abroad to reinforce the missions, and extend the sphere of Christian enterprise."

THE BIBLE SOCIETY, during the past year, has received £117,410 9s. 3d., being an increase on the previous year of £16,134 14s. 3d. In France, 128,133 copies of the Holy Scriptures have been issued from the Paris depot; and 111,581 have been put into circulation by means of the colporteurs. From the Brussels depot, 8,593 volumes have been issued. Dr. Pinkerton, in his annual statement, says: "Our issues of the Holy Scriptures, during the past year, amount to 69,563 copies, in German, Polish, Hebrew, Hungarian," &c. This veteran in the service of the Bible Society has been lately engaged in carrying out a measure which had been pressed on the attention of the committee by some of their own body, when visiting the continent, for supplying the hotels at the principal watering places with copies of the New Testament and Psalms, in German and French, an

been forwarded to Mr. Knox. In her Majesty's charter, granted to the colony of New Zealand, and the explanatory minutes appended thereto, the committee, after careful attention, perceived various points of injustice towards the native, and several provisions which were likely to prove highly injurious in their influence. When a deputation, appealing upon this subject, waited on Earl Gray, the committee took the opportunity of pleading with his lordship against the project for conveying surgeon of laborers from the coast of Africa to the British plantations in the West Indies, which measure they deplored, as calculated to retard the civilization of Africa. The unhappy state of Malta and the neighboring islands in the South Seas, had engaged the attention of the committee, who presented an appeal to Lord Palmerston, entreating his mediation with the Government of Naples on behalf of the people, so unrighteously oppressed by the aggressions of some French officers. The committee, together with one sent to the Society de la Morale Chretienne of Paris, had met with satisfactory answers, and it was believed with good results. The report then went on to present sketches of the present state of the Aborigines of the British Colonies and other parts of the world. In moving the adoption of the report, Mr. Burnett stated his conviction of the importance of the Society. He considered that the English seemed far too forgetful of the important fact that, with the acquisition of territory, they acquired increased and heavy responsibilities. If you had not been able to do much, it was understood by the country, or it would be better appreciated and more effectively supported. With the adoption of the report and other resolutions of a routine nature, the meeting closed.

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The principal, I may say the sole object, of my visit to Albany, was a conference with Gov. Young, with respect to a case of humanity. I found His Excellency to be a plain, unpretending man, disposed to hear to the claims of my case, rather than the actual claims of the letters through which I obtained an introduction to him; for, be it known, I had taken the usual plan of approach, which appears to have been originally predicated upon the absurd notion that Governors cease to be men the moment they assume the authority of their office! The case to which I refer is one of deep interest, as connected with the tyranny of some of our Maryland laws, and the vile use made of them by certain of our policemen. You would doubtless take not a little interest in its details, were I privileged to give them. This I may do, after the Governor has decided upon my application. Suffice it to say, that I, then, had occasion to solicit the co-operation of certain individuals concerned, *the most unwrilling of them were Jews!* Under the influence of those *Christian* prejudices instilled into my mind from infancy, I had felt disposed to pass them by; but I finally concluded to approach them as *men*. I did so, with the result stated—a result which may be profitably pondered by those who may have erroneously inferred, from a single act unauthorized by some of the progenitors of this despised people, that they are not *naturally* actuated by the same impulses as Christians.

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GLORIA DEO.

Gloria in altissimis Deo.—Luke. 2, 14.

The voices, Lord, which thee best sent
To bless me, since my life began,
Of health and ease, peace and content,
In youth and age, be with me, my man,
Light in my heart a sacred flame,
Give me and keep me, O my God,
With gratitude my soul o'erflow:
I'll sun to thee, the Eternal King,
The sweet refrain the angels sing,
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo.

When, for obedience to thy will,
Thou give'st the sweet reward of peace,
And when we pass the darker sea
Thou send'st, for help, thy saving grace;
Yet be this still, refrain of my song,
Upon the tangled, drooping flowers,
Thy blessings make my virtues grow,
I'll sun to thee, the Eternal King,
The sweet refrain the angels sing,
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo.

The birds and beasts, the plants and trees,
The hills and vales, the verdant sod,
Oh Godhead, Father, Son, and Spirit,
United sing, Glory to God,
The sun and planets, the moon and stars,
The stars thy sovereign power proclaim,
Its silent voices, Lord, to me
I'll sun to praise thee, Heavenly King,
The sweet refrain the angels sing,
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo.

When Nature lifts her drooping head,
Just freed from the fetters, cold, icy hand,
And, as it rising from the dead,
She comes to life, at Spring's command,
Thy goodness then shall my heart, my tongue,
Gives smiling fields and gaudy flowers—
From the hill sides, valleys, and bowers
I'll sun to thank thee, Heavenly King,
The sweet refrain the angels sing,
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo.

The summer rain, the cooling dews,
The cheerful sun, the fanning breeze,
Pleasure and health and joy diffuse;
With these I'll sun to thank thee, Lord,
Thy goodness fills the world around,
Thy mercy everywhere is found,
Thy beauty's seen wherever I go:
I'll sun to thank thee, Heavenly King,
The sweet refrain the angels sing,
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo.

Winter has bound the earth in chains,
The streams have left its frozen breast,
Now cold insinuates reigns,
And Nature seems to sleep in death;
Yet soon it will revive again,
Warm'd into life, its powers remain,
Enchanted by ice and frost and snow:
I will, by faith, sun to thee, King,
Use the refrain the angels sing,
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo.

When Death, the messenger, shall come,
He'll come to bless, not to destroy;
Glory and life spring from the tomb,
A new Jerusalem, a new, a true joy.
Then, from our mortal fetters free,
We'll sun to thee, the Eternal King,
No more opposed by sin and woe;
We will unite to praise our King
Use the refrain the angels sing,
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo.

BUBULUS.

For the National Era.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN SABBATH UNION.

Rev. Mark Hopkins, D. D., President of Williams College, preached a sermon last Sabbath evening, at the Park Street Church, on the immortality of the soul, taking the text from the 8th chapter of the Book, from Isaiah 58, v. 13, 14—"If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thy ways, nor finding thy pleasure, nor speaking thy words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord, and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

The Jamestown sloop of war is nearly ready for sea, and is bound, it is said, to the coast of Africa. It has been suggested that it might be well to alter her designation to the Mediterranean, to look after Mexican privateers, which are beginning to appear in that quarter.

The Carmelite, recently captured off Ionia, and carried into Syracuse, is a brigue of 200 tons and belongs to Emory & Stetson, of Bangor, bound for Trieste, with coffee, which was insured in New York, though it was said with a new procho.

G. F. B.

EGGLEMAN, CHESTER CO., PA., *June* 1, 1847.

FRIEND BAILEY: Had I not been partially prepared by the *past*, I should have been perfectly amazed at the passage of that resolution of censure upon the Era, by the late meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society; and, as it relates to it, I herewith send thee an extract from the annual report of the Chester County Anti-Slavery Society, adopted at the late meeting held on the 28th and 29th ultimo:

"The fact of a newspaper, though not of the most radical kind, devoted to the cause of the slave, being established and maintained in the capital of the United States—the great slave-mart of the country, the seat of vitality, the very throne of the slave power—must have in the anti-slavery cause which should not be overlooked or underrated. It is

THE NATIONAL ERA.

For the National Era.

PORTRAITS FOR THE PEOPLE.

BY JOHN SMITH THE YOUNGER.

No. 12—Continued.

THE POLITICIAN IN PRINCETON.

CHAP. III.

It was a very interesting study, the grand council held by Mrs. Dangerfield and Mr. Secretary Softswadder The lady had called on Mr. Softswadder at the Department. There was no impropriety in that—none in the world. Indeed, these visits of the angelic sex to Secretaries of Department are neither few nor far between, and afford a charming relief to the dull routine of official life in the Federal city. Often is the eye of the weary hanger-on refreshed by the graceful flutterings of a muslin robe; and as he paces, with "measured step and slow," the dreary corridors, the rustling of silk and satin occasionally falls like music on his ear. How delightful is this all-pervading influence of the softer sex!

Ottawa-street mansions are inscrutably modest. They have been known to entertain such a becoming awe of the great men who handle the loaves and fishes, that they have not been able to approach them in person, and have been constrained to select a fair cousin, a sister, or mayhap a wife, as their deputy. Mrs. Dangerfield's visit to the Department, then, had in it nothing unusual.

The lady sat in a rocking chair, which had been judiciously drawn into the shade; for the honest beams of the noonday sun forced their way full into through the half-closed Venitian blinds, just as if *they* could penetrate the thick darkness of diplomatic cunning! That, of course, was not to be dreaded; but it is astonishing how readily ladies about two-and-thirty make the discovery that a bright sunlight, however useful to Plumbe, is rather prejudicial to other branches of art; and it was therefore not at all likely that Mrs. Dangerfield should be forced to sit in a full flood of light,