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WASHINGTON, D. C.

For the National Era.

A PALACE IN GENOA.

BY EDWARD SPENCER.

XII.—Concluded.

"Never mind it, Helen," said he, soothingly; "that is all past, and shall not come again. I am free from the chain at last."

"Oh, papa!" cried she, sobbing as if her heart were sore indeed, "why have you been so cruel? You are killing us, mother and me—breaking our hearts. Why will you do so? You keep away—you shun us—you will not let us console you—and all the while, you are chafing your heart away with some hidden grief in this dismal, uncouth den! It must not be—you are killing me—killing me!"

"Let me not think that, dearest," said he, gently. "I have enough to answer for as it is. And, pet, I will do better now; I have some sense of duty, and can perform it, *sometimes*, though you may think otherwise. I shall be better now—oh, Helen, darling," and he shuddered palpably, "I have *so* suffered! That must be my excuse. I have so wished to die—to steep myself in unthought! Great God! child, it has been Hell, here in my heart, all this long time—dark, seething, smouldering Hell: no hope, no joy—only ceaseless woe, ceaseless pain, ceaseless despair!"

"But you will shake it off? You will come to me, to mother, when you suffer most, instead of languishing here—you will come to us?" said she, eagerly, tremulously, clasping him to her with warm, loving arms.

"Yes, dearest, I will come."

"And oh, my father, promise me you will give up this horrid cell! that you will never again enter it, but will let me lock it, and keep the key. 'Tis this place has made you suffer so—I know it. That mournful cry of despair, written there upon the wall, is enough to chill your blood—oh, promise!"

"I promise, Helen."

"That is my dearest father! Oh, we will be so happy together, presently. And mamma will learn how to smile again. And you—'tis a pity you do not laugh—when you have such white teeth! I am happy already, papa, *so* happy—for, dear, I was so, *so* afraid some awful thing was the matter, and we had lost you, forever! Oh, such an awful fear it was! I have dreamed it at night, pa, until I had to start out of bed and light my lamp to weep by"——

"Dreams!" murmured he, as if the shadows of those terrible presences had fallen suddenly athwart him, chilling him like contact with the black death-flood of Acheron. He shuddered, paled, and pressed his hand before his eyes.

"But we will have no more such fearful dreams," said she, gaily; "our dreams henceforth will be all music and flowers and sunshine. Yes, you must never come here any more; we must lock all the horrid shadows and moody thoughts in here—this door will keep them safe enough, I think. And I will fix you in such a cheerful room, papa. You know that little room with the green sun-painted window, between your chamber and your parlor? Well, there's a little carpet will just suit it, and George shall get some shelves made, and I will clean out the rubbish and fix up your books, favorite books, and, some day, when you and mamma are out riding on the Cornice road, or towards Monte Faccio—you must drive her out, you know, for her health need exercise and the fresh air—I will out the shelves for you, and, when you come home you will smile to see yourself suddenly in the company of those beloved old friends. Won't it be nice, and such a glad surprise? Meantime, the sunshine I put in order this very day, and we will have your desk and papers moved up, and you can study there in the clear daylight—oh, *so* much better! And sometimes, when you are busy, and gloomy thoughts come, you can come down alone, but send for me, and I will come with my book or my work, and keep still as a mouse, so as not to disturb you. Only when I see by your brow that some thought troubles you, I will steal up, noiseless as a fairy, and look at you—thus—that will drive the shadow away. And then I will invite you sometimes to write in *my* room; and mamma will be there, and Rupert—you do not know what a noble heart Rupert has, papa, and he wants to know you and our low talk, instead of annoying, will help you, like the accompaniment of a song. Happy days in reserve for us! Why have we not enjoyed them before now?"

She did not know what the painful expression which flitted then across his brow meant. To her, these things were very easy; one had but to say, it shall be so, and all was done. But, poor—him—how far the black incubus had drawn despair shone through and spoiled the pink silken robes of joy which she would fling over his shoulders! Instructed by the past, he dared not indulge hopes for the future. And there—how black the shadow hovered threatening from those days and nights in the *Oubliette!*

"We will try to be happy, my darling child; and if I fail in the effort, 'twill be much of my misery. Oh! I feel your sweet sunshine—your Helen. How much I have lost! How much! How much! Now, again, dear, I know what hope is."

"Oh, papa, I cannot tell you how much comfort it gives me to hear you speak that! Have hope? Then all must go well; fear sinks away when hope comes. With you and Italy—how I shall smile and sing! How I shall grow up into a real woman!"

"A real woman now, my Helen—a woman like your sex—

"'When pain and anguish wring the brow,
A ministering angel, thou!'"

But this shall be more important. You say the bearer waits? Where is he? I will go see him. And be careful that we are not interrupted."

"He is in the tapestry room, papa. But you must first go to your dressing-room, and fix yourself a little. I am a great girl for 'primming,' you know, but I like my sweetheart papa to look well. Who would not, when he is such a handsome man? Why will call George; you must be shaved, your beard is tooling; it makes you look really haggard."

So saying, she linked her arm in his, and went up the stairs with him, dancingly, her face full of joy. While Giorgio was shaving her father she sat by, chatting commandingly upon sights visible from the window, or reading him some lively item from a late number of *Galignani.*

"George," said Mr. Lloyd, with a slight tremor in his tone, "Miss Helen will give you the key of the—the room in the basement, and I wish you to take the papers on my desk, *all of them*, and burn them. Helen, see that it is properly done, will you, lest I—I—do not read them."

"Oh, I will attend to it," cried Helen, joyfully; "I know that those wicked papers have made you heart-sick. What a bonfire we will have, won't we, George?—a perfect *auto-da-fé.*"

George stared at them in a very bewildered sort of way.

"I may tell him?" asked she, half by whisper, half by look, of her father; then she twirled the key of the *Oubliette* triumphantly in her hand, saying, with the brightest smile, "See, George, good, kind George, this is mine—mine! You know what that means? We are never going into that dark place any more, but we are going to work and study together; and oh, I am so happy!"

The negro's eyes fairly glistened, but he said nothing, but proceeded with his brushing and manipulations with redoubled vigor and spirit.

"George," said Mr. Lloyd, with a sigh heavier than his loveliest every day, and more sorrowful than his joy, "I have my reasons for all this. Your master is a man of honor, and I am going to *try*, my faithful friend. You will help me?"

George touched the hand a moment with his own, while he gazed into his master's face. Then he turned quickly away, his hands seeming possessed with unusual hustle.

"Sar, of you want me to shave you, don't talk to me now, please. I'se jest got 'bout as much as I kin hold. More too. You look somewhar else, Miss Helen, else you got to shave you father yourself. I knows jest one thin'. Yiss'deday, I wish I was onten dis palilis—prayed to de Lord to le'mme go. Jest now," said he, with a smile and tone full of an indescribably humorous pathos; "jest now et 'pears to me 'bout as good a place to live in as I ever see. Miss Helen!" cried he, with a sudden passionate impulse, "you is an angel! I know'd it, fust time I seed you. Oh, yon kin laugh, but me an' you knows all about dat, don't we, marster?"

"Yes, George, and we must prove our sense of God's goodness, in sending us such a blessing."

"Why, pa, what have I done to be so exalted? You would not have me selfish, would you? I am happy enough to live in the sunshine, and I only wanted you to share it with me. There is room enough for us all. And one is happier for seeing all around her happy!

"No always, my child," said Mr. Lloyd, sadly, remembering his feelings upon that subject in the height of his gloom and the madness of his defiance.

"Bikes my oysters to be better'n anybody else's," commented George with a candid *naïveté*, which made Mr. Lloyd smile, in spite of himself.

Then, George having finished his offices, Helen declared she was determined to see her father nicely fixed; and to that end was very busy about him before the glass, arranging his collar, tying his cravat in a dainty knot, and mingling little kisses and caresses, and lively words, with her pleasant task. At last, having done all she could, she gazed into his face a moment, saying, "You look ten years younger. Now go and see the visiter, and be very good. After he is gone, you must come to my rooms, which I will darken up, so that you can lie down upon the sofa, and have a good nap before dinner. I will watch you, for I see you need rest very much. And, if you are very good, you shall dine *en famille* to-day. Be sure, now, to come to me as soon as that hideous black-bearded monster in there has finished his talk. I expect he comes begging."

With these words, and a kiss, she suffered him to go, dancing off herself, and twitting George's ear, as she skipped past him along the corridor. She was very happy, because she had helped to cause happiness.

That is woman's way, always. The more diffusive she can make her light, the brighter glows that light itself. God bless thee, woman, heart-full, true, loving woman! God *hath* blessed thee, and with a blessing mightier than tho blessing of man, for He hath given thee, instead of the cavilling disquisitions, that which is far higher, nobler, more Godlike, the *Pure Reason*, which *feels*, not is *convinced*, which acts by the heart, does not postulate from the brain; and He hath given thee Love so great, that there is pleasure to thee in loving, aye, in the very *act of Love*, aside from the pleasure of the object loved, and in the great delight of the sword driving him on—unconscious, because thy heart is filled to thine, woman, and thy voice assumed the fault! *Ecce signum!* By this love thy weakness conquers death.

"By the mope
And aspiration, by *the love and faith*,
We do conquer death and the world this day!"

This love—by it thou winnest again the Heaven which once thou lost us, and from it reachest down thy hand to lift us up. If we be too heavy, this love of thine even brings the load upward with thee, and, wherever we may be, near or far, So, we must bless thee;

"If sin came by thee,
And by sin, death—the reason—righteousness,
The heavenly life—the compensative rest
Come by it too. * * * * *
Be not self-tied,
Something than heart to hear through woe and shoal—
Peculiar sense, and proper to thy soul
* * * Big go lo! thy love
Shall chant itself its own beatitudes,
After its own fashion, by and by.
* * * * Such a crown
I set upon thy head, to wear it here—
Of all reproach against the *sin* forgiven—
Thy heart shall be the place where I will close;
The lips which spake wrong counsel, I kiss close—
I bless them ere I close them with a seal,
And by the memory of Edenic joys
Forfeit and lost."

XIII.

Chiara Scuro.

"Let Love clasp Grief, lest both be drowned,
Let darkness keep her raven glass;
Ah! sweetness is bitter in the bowl,
To dance with death, to beat the ground
* * * * *
"Than that the victor hours should scorn
The long recurrence of the victim hours,
"Behold the man that loved and lost,
But wit he was is overcome."[1]

Il Palazzo Cieco had many shadows in its lofty corridors, and athwart its broad, stately stairs. Shadows gloomy enough at times; shadows that lay long and black, like the form of some one murdered and cold; shadows that, fitful combat with the spectres, but he has vanquished them—they have fled in a dismayed and broken rout, and the prisoner is regenerate from this hour.

So thinks Helen, child of hope and sunshine, and let us cast no shadow athwart the pleasant dream.

Mr. Beale's interview with that "hideous bearded monster"—who was none other than Pierro, the disciple of Marianne, as the reader has already guessed—was but a long one; and when her father came to her room, as he had promised, she noticed that he gave evidence both of excitement and exhaustion. She needed the lesson in self-control, however, took his hot hands in hers, led him to it, and made him lie down, with a tender, persuasive force that was irresistible. Then, placing a shawl across his feet, she darkened the room, and took her seat quietly by his side, holding one of his hands, and passing her hand gently across his hot, flushed brow. He murmured only a few words of thanks, in a tremulous voice, and then rewarded her cares by gradually dropping off to sleep.

While it pained her greatly, she was glad to have witnessed that sleep of his, since it gave her a clearer idea than she could have obtained in any other way, of the extent and horrible nature of his sufferings, and of the necessity for immediate relief in his case. For he could not sleep without dreaming, and such dreams! They transcended any conception she had ever entertained of horror; now he would murmur indistinguishable words of entreaty, of deprecation, of agonized prayer, while the cold sweat started out in great beads upon his forehead; now he would shiver, and shrink, and moan, painfully and freely, as if despair had full possession of his soul; now he would whisper of secrets intrusted to his care, dire and awful secrets, to reveal any of which was death, death! while his hands made the motion of strange and mystic signs, and his lips formed to whisper pass-words; now he would start up, shrieking, and tear the scorpions from his bosom, pluck the vipers from his throat, or rend the flaming sword from his side, and hurl it back to the corners of the room. But as soon as her hand touched him, he was soothed, would fall quietly back, and murmur gentle words of hope or of blessing. Thus Helen kept her painful vigils at her father's side, and was rewarded by seeing him wake up more calm, more composed, his fever gone, himself refreshed, and more inclined to quiet converse than she had ever seen him. He was very gravo, very thoughtful, but he seemed better able to restrain his feelings, more rational, and more master of himself, than ever before.

Of what passed between them, things continued, and was observed of all. Even Mademoiselle took occasion to remark, privately, to George, that

"M'sieur Beale, his'n' von-sad, interveil. Yes see? *Non!* Ces'n' pas, *non!* Well, you day, Become gentleman, *et raison wraie et propre*, as he is of *une telle grandeur et d'une telle beauté de la figure.*"

"Yes, madamselle," responded George, graciously, "me an' Miss Helen is goin' to bring him round, all right."

Miss Helen indeed spared no efforts to accomplish that desirable object. She had talked with Rupert, and had begged to exert all his powers of pleasing; and now she sought her mother, who was in her own room, sitting with hands in lap, the shadow over pale face, listless, weary, broken-spirited. Hers was the gradual prostration that comes after long, long years of suffering, a chronic woe, which yields scarcely ever to any treatment—never except to the assuaging touch of time.

"Mamma, mamma," cried Helen, embracing her, "this mother-look of hers must be a constant reproach to papa, and he will recover now, if we watch over him, and treat him right. You must rouse yourself. You must be cheerful, mamma, and talk, and look to your duty, and—it is our place to cure papa back to life and hope. He could not have endured what he has gone through much longer, mother, and he may even now be on the eve of a crisis. We must help to support him through it. Come now, you never failed him before; do not fail him now, in what may be the hour of his greatest need. If he falls back now, mamma, he will die; but if we succeed, he is *ours*, henceforth. You know what we mean."

Thus did this loving and lovely girl become, as it were, a David's harp, before whose powerful soul-music the shadows fitted and were no more, the evil spirits vanished, shrieking, and all this house of Saul was comforted and made well.

Yet Helen confessed to herself that the shadows were not quite gone, yet; it would have been unreasonable to expect so soon this communion; and, moreover, there came one or two unexpected clouds in her sunshine, so that on the whole light and shade were pretty equally blended in the picture, and the brilliancy of the *chiaro* was perhaps relieved and enhanced by opacity and sombreness of the *oscuro*. Still, Helen drew a happy augury even from this; for her hopeful fancy, the shadows, the mist, the gloom, were of the early morning; when the day should fully break, and the sun have mounted sufficiently high to dissipate the clouds, the gloom would be completely dispelled; they dared not face the majestic presence of the "garish day."

Besides what his sleep had taught her of her father's infirmities, and of his enfeebled, nervous condition, she was further kept perplexed and still more pained, at beholding his conduct during dinner. She saw that he wished to make himself agreeable, to please and entertain them, and it gave her a sad heart to see him thus struggling almost blindly amid the confused suggestions of a shattered mind, seeking to call up vanished ideas, and grasping impotently after expressions that his memory refused to supply. Now and then, a recollection would seize upper hand of him, too, and he would wander off in abstracted fashion, forgetting his purposes and where he was. And again, Helen could see by his puzzled brow, and his distraught eye, and his quivering lip, that he was groping among the spectres, in the red light of the smoking lamp, locked in behind that iron-studded door of the *Oubliette*. At these times was that Helen's place, and she was the ministering womanhood. Her hand it was that touched gently, to call him back; her voice that roused him, with a question, a merry banter, a suggestive idea; and ever with watchful care she helped out his sentences, invested his vague questions with consistency, gave him new subjects upon which to converse; led him gently away from all exciting topics, and flattered him into self-content and patience with his infirmities. If ever there was a woman made to satisfied with our shortcomings; can persuade us that gout is symbolic of fortune, sciatica an emblem of industry, gray hair graceful, and baldness dignified. If we stammer, 'tis from exuberance of thought and idea; if we are poor, we was Cincinnatus—none but the poor are honorable; if we fail in love, 'tis lucky for us, since our virtues transcend so infinitely her deserts. Sweet prover of our weaknesses! Thou mak'st us vain in spite of our intentions, using us as the music used the chill old Beadsman, in John Keats's poem:

——"Music's golden tongue
Flattery'd to tears this aged man and poor."

What count poverty, and age, and numbness, when such a voice melts into our ears?

All went merry enough so, until Rupert, turning towards his sister, said:

"Helen, I met Merivale again this morning, at the *Feder*. He says he will call for you to-morrow, to show you the *Carignano* church, and wishes to know if pa and mamma will not join the party. It is a fine chance, for he knows all about such things."

Helen saw her father glance quickly up, she noticed the gathering cloud about his brow and the compression of his lips.

"I am too unwell to go," said Mrs. Beale, languidly, "and you and Helen must accompany him, unless Mr. Beale wishes to go with you."

"Of whom do you speak?" asked the father, in a harsh tone; "I know no one of that name, and I have never been informed that Miss Helen received visiters in my house." There was much sarcasm in these words, and Rupert's face colored with anger, as he said, rapidly:

"You have kept yourself so much aloof from us, sir, that there is small wonder if you know nothing of what has been going on amongst us; Mr. Merivale"——

Here he paused, reluctantly, but unable to resist Helen's imploring glance; and she quickly resumed where he left off.

"Mr. Merivale, papa," said she, "is a travelling acquaintance of ours, an artist, to whom Rupert and I are under many obligations; here she briefly recounted their adventures at Como, and sketched an account of his assistance to them in Milan; "he came to Genoa to study some Cocoos here, and, having found us out, of course paid us a visit. I remembered what you told us the day after our arrival, papa," added she, a little reproachfully, "but I had no intention of keeping the acquaintance a secret, since I am sure you will consent to exempt Mr. Merivale from your prohibition during his visit to Genoa. He has promised to show me all the celebrities of the city, a feast I should hate to be deprived of."

"And he has promised to give me some lessons in art," quoth Rupert; "I'm tired of doing nothing, and, i' faith, I do not see why I may not become an artist."

"Humph; a Titian or a Correggio, no doubt," said Mr. Beale, dryly; but who is this Merivale? What do you know about him, that induces you to think so highly of him?"

"He is a Virginian, I believe," said Helen.

"He is a gentleman," struck in Rupert; "a man of education and refinement, and, withal, not ashamed to confess that he makes his living by his pencil."

"*That*, certainly, is a commendable feature in an F. F. V.," sneered Mr. Beale; adding, after a pause, "Well, I have no right to control you in this matter, but do not make many acquaintances, if you value my peace of mind, or yours either. And, Rupert, remember that time is money in the artist; so, if you 'cultivate' this Mr. Merivale to any great extent, you had better make a bargain with him. I have seen some F. F. V.'s drive quite a sharp bargain, in my time."

"You must be in a very bad humor, sir," said Rupert, with a frown on his brow and a flush on his cheek.

His father started, and frowned full as dark. But he caught a glimpse of Helen's pale, entreating face, his brow cleared up, and he extended a hand to his son, saying:

"Nay, my son, do not be angry. When you are as old as I am, and have seen so much of the dark side of life, have gone through as many fiery furnaces of pain, and shame, and trial, and disappointment, and grief, you will know how natural it is for an old man to shun these outbreaks of gloom, this rugged temper."

"Forgive *me*, father," said Rupert, grasping his hand with emotion; "forgive me that I have shown so little respect to your troubles."

"And I shall sing a song presently that will outdo the song of that 'blithe spirit,' the skylark," cried Helen, her eyes full of sparkle and glisten—twin alpha stars they, shining down from their blue dome, blessing all mortal lovers who embrace and kiss each other in their serene light. There is no happiness equal to the bliss we derive from seeing others happy whom we love, and knowing that for a portion at least of that happiness they are indebted to us and our efforts. And did this Helen!

"'Ah! if any poet knew her,
He would sing of her with fails
Of the rainbow-lighted hair,
And if any poet drew her,
He would hide him her, unaware,
With a look imploring, proud, as one
And all learns to pray, 'God love her!'
Ay, and prays, the poet who
We may all be sure *He doth!*"

From this time there was a visible improvement in her father's condition, which amended much faster than could have been hoped, by every means in her power. Indeed, she was ever with him when he was not employed, seeking to prevent his mood from falling back into gloom. He did not return to the *Oubliette*, nor did he ever mention the dreary place, during his company, but much of his time was given to regular and engrossing business, and he had frequent visiters, all of whom, George remarked, he took up their cards, containing, in addition to their names, a few words, whose purport he could not comprehend, but which gained them instant admission. The two who came most often were a cadaverous, black-bearded man, with fierce, bright eye, and a corpulent priest, with erysipelatous nose and cheeks, both of whom George hated with a most cordial hatred, because he suspected them of evil designs against his master. In the rarely recurring periods of his leisure, Mr. Beale exerted himself to please his family. Two or three times he rode out in a close carriage with Helen and her mother. He joined often in their quiet talk at the table, and especially seemed to strive to make Helen feel his gratitude, by little attentions and tenderness of speech and touch, such as she had never known before. He appeared to have an acute sense of the wrong he had done her during so long a time, and endeavored to make amends for her. She, poor soul, was happy as a child in its mother's smile—*passively* happy, that is, for the days when she could recall had long since fled, but she could not participate in the happy flow of life that bore Rupert and Helen along upon its rippling bosom, taking pains to ask them in regard to their sight-seeing, joking Helen about her glow and joy and loveliness, and in a word, contributing further to persuading and still more pained, at beholding his conduct during dinner. She saw that he wished to make himself agreeable, to please and entertain them, and it gave her a sad heart to see him thus struggling almost blindly amid the confused suggestions of a shattered mind, seeking to call up vanished ideas, and grasping impotently after expressions that his memory refused to supply. Now and then, a recollection would seize upper hand of him, too, and he would wander off in abstracted fashion, forgetting his purposes and where he was. And again, Helen could see by his puzzled brow, and his distraught eye, and his quivering lip, that he was groping among the spectres, in the red light of the smoking lamp, locked in behind that iron-studded door of the *Oubliette*. At these times was that Helen's place, and she was the ministering womanhood. Her hand it was that touched gently, to call him back; her voice that roused him, with a question, a merry banter, a suggestive idea; and ever with watchful care she helped out his sentences, invested his vague questions with consistency, gave him new subjects upon which to converse; led him gently away from all exciting topics, and flattered him into self-content and patience with his infirmities. If ever there was a woman made to satisfied with our shortcomings; can persuade us that gout is symbolic of fortune, sciatica an emblem of industry, gray hair graceful, and baldness dignified. If we stammer, 'tis from exuberance of thought and idea; if we are poor, we was Cincinnatus—none but the poor are honorable; if we fail in love, 'tis lucky for us, since our virtues transcend so infinitely her deserts. Sweet prover of our weaknesses! Thou mak'st us vain in spite of our intentions, using us as the music used the chill old Beadsman, in John Keats's poem:

[1] "Music's golden tongue
Flattery'd to tears this aged man and poor."

What count poverty, and age, and numbness, when such a voice melts into our ears?

The rich color mantled easily to her cheek; her voice had grown richer, deeper, more capable of giving expression to the whole gamut of emotion; her form had spread and ripened; her eye was grown softer, and had acquired new and more inscrutable depths than ever; and in every way its pure bliss and loveliness of her soul poured itself around, like an overflowing honeycomb, that dripped and was fragrant with the lucent honey of Hymettus.

Nevertheless, this fair day of regeneration, this day when the *auto-da-fé* was celebrated, and the *Oubliette* locked up, was not permitted to pass without its peculiar shadow. Helen was standing at the window, among the oleanders, and her brother was glancing over the pages of a new book, when he heard her exclaim, faintly, and looking up, saw that she was very pale, and gazed with intent eyes at some object on the street. He hastened to her, and she pointed with trembling finger at a shadow that was passing slowly up along the opposite side of the way—the shadow of a square-built, jaunty Englishman, with light hair and florid face, who put his feet down firmly, and flourished his cane in a manner peculiarly British.

"It is the Hyaena!" she murmured.

"Why do you fear that man?" said Rupert, impatiently; "grunting he is all you think him, what has he to do with us?"

"Oh, I do not know—but I dread him so much! See! What is he doing? He makes a mark upon the wall of the house opposite—a chalk-mark cross! What does it mean? Thank God, he is gone."

"And I will send George to rub that mark out," said Rupert, thoughtfully; "but fear not, Helen: Merivale and I are more than matches for all the Hyaenas in Italy."

No. II.

INKLINGS FROM THE FRONTIER;

or

Life and Observations among Civilized Indians.

FISHMONG CITY, C. N., *Jan.* 11, 1860.

To the Editor of the National Era:

There are four other tribes or nations of civilized Indians occupying the territory south of the Cherokees. According to the traditions and legends of these people, these four tribes have ever been neighbors, and closely allied to each other.

The Choctaws, or Pafallayes, the Chickasaws, and the Creeks, or Muscogees, claim, that at the time of the Spanish invasion of Mexico by Hernando Cortez, in the early part of the sixteenth century, their ancestors resided in the northern portion of that country. "*Wanderer*," a correspondent of *Forney's Press*, makes mention of this fact in a very interesting letter from the Indian country to that paper. As far as I have been able to gather information in relation to the history of these three nations, I have seen nothing to lead to a different conclusion as to their origin, but rather much to confirm this traditional history.

At that early date, so the tradition goes, the Choctaws, Creeks, and Chickasaws, formed a powerful confederacy, and enjoyed a republican form of government. They lived a settled life, had villages and cities, tilled the soil, and raised grain and vegetables, possessed immense wealth in all kinds of property then known, and worshipped the fire and the sun, to which they erected temples, and offered sacrifices.

When Hernando Cortez, the bloody conqueror, entered Mexico with his hosts of fierce Spaniards, and almost literally waded through blood, from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico, slaying thousands on his triumphal march, and finally murdering Montezuma, the mighty aboriginal King, and despoiling his capital city, great terror seized upon all the natives who heard of his cruel and bloody deeds.

This northern confederacy, which had refused to acknowledge the rule of the most powerful monarch America ever knew, became panic-stricken, and fled the country and the homes they had built and adorned, leaving all their riches behind them. The direction of their flight lay toward the northeast. After arriving at the Gulf of Mexico, they wandered through the country which is now Texas and Louisiana, crossed the Mississippi, and took up their abode in the flowery savannas and shady forests of the sunny South, where now are the States of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida.

How many years elapsed from the time they left their homes in old Mexico, until they arrived at their new homes, where they were found by De Soto, is not known. But we are informed by traditions, that during their exodus they lost their property and wealth, and were greatly diminished in numbers, by hardships, sickness, and wars. They made war upon all tribes with whom they came in contact, either *en masse* or singly, to drive them from their new homes, and whom they conquered, dispossessed, and, like the ancient Romans, adopted into their own nations.

When De Soto, the famous explorer, discovered the Mississippi at its mouth, Hernando Ford, he found the Choctaws, Creeks, Cherokees, and Chickasaws, to be powerful and warlike nations, and formidable contestants to the Spanish occupancy of this fair country. In 1540, the great battle of Mauhilla was fought at the place now known as the Choctaw Bluff, in Clarke county, Alabama. De Soto, at the head of an army of about three thousand Spaniards, well armed, well equipped, and experienced warriors, marched against the powerful Indian army composed of Choctaws, Creeks, Cherokees, and Chickasaws, whose numbers were unknown, but supposed to be fifteen or twenty thousand warriors.

It was at first, De Soto's intention to hold a festival on the large plot of greensward in front of the town, have a talk with the chief men, and with presents of gaudy tinsels and false stones, induce them to place themselves, Tuscaloosa, the head chief of the allied powers, had previously been captured by stratagem, and held a prisoner. But on this occasion, for the purpose of making a favorable impression, and being in a hostile country, he was safely delivered over to his people, having first promised to exert his influence in the Council to induce favorable concessions to be made in behalf of the Spanish adventurers. The festival and scenes of merry-making that succeeded, the Spaniards, with great pomp, exhibited their gorgeous splendors and pagantry. The Indians also produced their peculiar entertainments. Hundreds of their most beautiful maidens, with long waving hair dishevelled and falling over their shoulders, and attired in all the finery that savage taste could devise, came and danced, and sang, and played, before the chief and his distinguished guests.

But the promises of the great Tuscaloosa proved to be only a cunning ruse of his invention, to obtain his liberty. And, as soon as released, he commenced preparing his warriors, and making preparations for a grand attack upon his haughty invaders. Soon, spies and scouts, whom De Soto had taken the precaution to have out scouring the adjacent country, came in with the intelligence that the old men, women, and babes, were collecting and moving to a dense forest behind the bluff, and several miles in the rear of their town. The spies had scarcely done speaking, when the terrible warcry of the Indians resounded from the adjacent thicket, with a startling and awe-inspiring effect. The Spaniards flew to their arms, and prepared to defend themselves against the assault, leaving most of their horses tied and tethered in the adjacent woods, that they, on dismounting, and driven from the field; but they soon rallied, mounted their well-trained war-steeds, and charged upon the foe. The charge was a grew brighter and lovelier every day, and more grew the Indians in their happiness. In the enchanting realization of the pink crèpe, and Indian skulls were cloven on the right and on the left by Spanish sabres.

The Indians, although vastly outnumbering their pale-faced assailants, could not stand before such superior weapons, wielded by skillful hands; and were obliged to retreat within the walls of their fortified town, from the ramparts of which they renewed the contest, pelting their assailants with stones and other missiles until they were compelled to retreat again.

De Soto and his army rested a short distance, to rest and form new plans of attack, whereby they could make their victory more complete. While thus engaged, the notes of fresh bugles were heard with joy, and he was soon reinforced with near a thousand men, eager to stain their blades in blood.

It was resolved to storm the town. Then commenced the "tug of war." Both sides fought bravely and desperately. Four times the Spaniards were driven back, but finally forced an entrance. As they poured into the enclosure, they were met by new and unlooked-for foes. Those fascinating singing maidens, who had entertained the chieftains the morning, now sprang upon them with all the ferocity of maddened tigers. But their tender youth, their beauty, nor their sex, saved them from the terrible rage of the Spaniards. Streams of blood gushed from the pierced breasts of maidens; heavy sabres and battle-axes came down with an awful crash upon the heads and shoulders of young women. The spirit of chivalry and the pride of gallantry were entirely forgotten by the fierce and bloodthirsty followers of the proud De Soto, and deeds of blood and horror continued to be perpetrated as long as the light of day lasted.

The shades of night at last hovered over the tragic scene, but the work of slaughter did not cease. The torch was applied to the houses, and lurid flames ascended high, as the Indian's god revelled in his power; and by the light thereof the demoniac butchery continued, as long as a poor victim could be found. On that memorable day and night, over six thousand Indian souls, counting old and young, male and female, maidens and babes, were sent on their journey to the spirit-land. The loss of De Soto's forces in the slain did not exceed one hundred; while nearly all were wounded by arrows, or missiles thrown by hand—at that time the only weapons of Indian warfare.

Since the great battle at Manhilla, the Creeks, Choctaws, and Chickasaws, have been under the Spanish, French, English, and finally under our own dominion. From all of their transactions with these civilized nations, with long waving hair dishevelled and falling over their shoulders, and attired in all the finery that savage taste could devise, came and danced, and sang, and played, before the chief and his distinguished guests.

But the promises of the great Tuscaloosa proved to be only a cunning ruse of his invention, to obtain his liberty. And, as soon as released, he commenced preparing his warriors, and making preparations for a grand attack upon his haughty invaders. Soon, spies and scouts, whom De Soto had taken the precaution to have out scouring the adjacent country, came in with the intelligence that the old men, women, and babes, were collecting and moving to a dense forest behind the bluff, and several miles in the rear of their town. The spies had scarcely done speaking, when the terrible war-cry of the Indians resounded from the adjacent thicket, with a startling and awe-inspiring effect. The Spaniards flew to their arms, and prepared to defend themselves against the assault, leaving most of their horses tied and tethered in the adjacent woods, that they, on dismounting, and driven from the field; but they soon rallied, mounted their well-trained war-steeds, and charged upon the foe. The charge was a grew brighter and lovelier every day, and more grew the Indians in their happiness.

For the National Era.

OUR FOWSLIP'S VISIT TO LOW.

Lady Nina stands at the parlor window, her blonde curls playing amid the camelias and azalias, and her jewelled arm supporting the fairest of little oval-faces and the most coquettish little mouth that ever pouted in the twilight shade. The embroidered toe of the little kid slipper is patting nervously and pettishly on the velvet carpet, revealing a strange commotion in the tiny understanding.

Alas! how few can say life is worth what it costs. Why is Lady Nina sad? Beautiful muse, how frail and tender, and how young, to meet life's conflicts, to brave life's battles.

Nina's mamma had but just laid out Nina's first campaign in society, when Nina's grandpapa, like any other simple old man of seventy, who never knows what's the right time to go off, must needs die, and so Nina must wear mourning for the space of six weeks; and while all her dear five thousand particular friends were enjoying the first rush of the season, dear stricken Nina was laid away in the chrysalis state under the black veil, whose only consolation was, that it rendered her beauty still more effulgent by the exquisite shade upon her ivory complexion. How celestial the effect of those long silken eyelashes in their downcast holiness, and the subdued smile, with its touching suspicion of grief, so becomingly subdued, and in such perfect harmony with the thale halo shining around the little oval face. How gracefully she bows her head beneath this heavy dispensation, and how beautiful the resignation of the pink crèpe and opâl silk—she needed but the fetters, to stand for the Greek Slave.

But the days of mourning for grandpapa are accomplished, and it is the eve of Nina's first grand assemblé. Say, Lady Nina, what new twilight phantom has crossed the threshold of thy peace?

"These odious country relations; when will they ever learn modesty? Nervous and feeble! What business have country folks with nerves? Horrid old Choctaw. I wish the law would fix their bonndaries with their fellow-savages, the red men, beyond the Rocky Mountains, and keep them in their fastnesses under its penalty. I wonder if she will pin her cap strings over head as super, and bring master Jakey, in his blue coat and buttons; it will kill me. When will trouble end with papa's relations? and the little foot fluttered like a dying bird, as Nina energetically built up her hobgoblin, and became her own tormentor.

Alas! poor Fowslip, it is with destiny to choose the most inauspicious days of the three hundred and sixty-five for thy visitation. How thankfully woildst thou take the return train, and be once more with thy children on that ill-starred night; but thy joyously lis destiny sustained his genius; and thou wouldst have fought the next assault single-handed, rather than forego their welcome to the old farm, likewise cries, "Peace, be still," thy rippling pride, and protests that cousin Hetty has promised to be good, and Nina's party will make such a pleasant variety in her visit, and she will entertain the children vastly with what she saw and heard—in fact, it is just what Nina needs to do her good, and she has needed, "waking up to new thoughts and feelings."

Poor Cowslip, she had felt dreadful misgivings in her mind at the thought of the plain, little, best dress, with its inferior country store trimmings, and yet, she was so much regarded in a dense forest behind the bluff, and several miles in the rear of their town. The spies had scarcely done speaking, when the terrible war-cry of the Indians resounded from the adjacent thicket, with a startling and awe-inspiring effect. The Spaniards flew to their arms, and prepared to defend themselves against the assault, leaving most of their horses tied and tethered in the adjacent woods, that they, on dismounting, and driven from the field; but they soon rallied, mounted their well-trained war-steeds, and charged upon the foe. The charge was a grew brighter and lovelier every day, and more grew the Indians in their happiness.

Genoa, and reached his mother two or three days before she expired."—Vol. I, p. 262.

Thirteen years after, during a subsequent visit to Europe, Dr. Warren saw Louis Napoleon under other circumstances. He says:

"I went to the President's fete at St. Cloud; was introduced to the President by our Minister, and had some conversation with him about our voyage to Europe in 1837, which he readily recollected. There were present about two thousand persons, of all nations; very beautiful ladies—a vast number of officers in unofficial uniforms. The day was very fine, and about a hundred fountains playing. The President was dressed in a plain black suit, with white waist coat and brown colored scarf. He did not appear to feel at ease."—Vol. II, pp. 66—67.

DISUNION DOCTRINES OF MODERN DEMOCRATS.

We find in the Lagrange (Ind.) *Standard* the following letter from the Hon. Charles Case, M. C.:

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December* 31, 1859.

Messrs. Morrow & Gray:

The subject of your Mr. Morrow has been on my table some days. An answer has been delayed, because, on one or two topics referred to in his letter, I desired to write at some length, and I is not often that I can take the time to get up long letters. But this last day of the year of grace 1859 finds me comparatively at my ease, for the House does not sit today, and I have leisure to bore you with an extended epistle. Now, to the subject matter of the waning year is a fit occasion for a partial review of some of the signs of the times. As its gloaming hours creep on and enshroud nature with darkness, it will be but in keeping with the solemn gloom of the fleeting moments to look out on the political sky, and scrutinize not so closely its clear space and its stars, as the clouds that threaten to involve all in impenetrable night. Such clouds exist; and perhaps the one which more than all others gives cause for anxiety, is the disunion sentiment, so warmly denounced by my friend Morrow, but which is unblushingly proclaimed as the favorite t

fore am without hope in the Union; so are hundreds of thousands of my countrymen at home. The most confiding of them all are, for 'equality in the Union or independence out of it;' having lost all hope of the former, I am for it '*independence now, and independence forever.*"

It is but fair, however, to admit that generally the threats of secession made by Southern Democrats have been qualified by a contingency, which I trust is not very far in the future, viz: the election of a Republican President. I repeat it, as the gentleman last quoted, [Mr. Crawford,] in the same speech, and just preceding the extract already given, says:

"Now, in regard to the election of a Black Republican President, I have this to say, and I speak the sentiment of every Democrat on this floor from Georgia, we will never submit to the inauguration of a Black Republican President. [Applause from the Democratic benches, and hisses from the Republican.] I repeat it, sir, and I have the authority to say so, that no Democratic Representative from Georgia on this floor will ever submit to the inauguration of a Black Republican President. [Renewed applause and hisses.]

You perceive by this last quotation, which, like the first, is clipped from his published speech, that his pronunciamiento in behalf of himself and all his Democratic colleagues was received with applause by the Democratic benches. I cannot refrain from remarking, right here, that my Democratic colleague, Mr. Holman, has delivered his first speech on the floor of the House, a speech quite replete with matter to admire, and containing some Union doctrines worthy of all approval. But, when he closed with the noble sentiment that, "with the consent of Indiana, no parricidal hand, 'in the insolence of office,' shall be raised to destroy, should touch the Constitution for its destruction," there came no applauding note from his Democratic associates of the South. Evidently, there was no such sentiment of the Union in his speech to please their taste.

I must hasten to complete my selection of Democratic gems from the debates of the present session, giving you only samples of an exensive stock: [See Appendix for "a few more of the same sort," to be found in great abundance outside of our Congressional Debating School.

Further quotations from the speeches of members may as well come chronologically, beginning with Mr. Davis, of Miss., who, on the 8th inst., (see Congressional Globe, p. 69,) said:

"We are arming, but not against the Government. We are arming to put down rebellion against the Government. We are for the Government When you presented Fremont as a sectional candidate for the Presidency, representing the system of free labor in opposition to the system of slave labor, you undertook to seize the Government for yourselves, in violation of the letter and spirit of the Constitution. In doing that, you were guilty of organizing rebellion against the Government, with a view to the seizure of power not legitimately its own. Against that rebellion we intend to act. We mean to put it down, even if we have to do it with the bayonet; and I call upon the South Americans and the North Americans to come forward and aid us in putting down rebellion."

Here we are told, and it's a comfort to know it, that the attempt to make Fremont President was organized rebellion, and that such attempts, if not otherwise put down, must be frustrated by the bayonet!

On the same day, Mr. Moore, of Alabama, replying to Mr. Nelson, said:

"I was astonished to hear that gentleman's declaration that the election to the Presidency of William H. Seward, or Chase, or any other Black Republican candidate, entertaining like opinions with them, would not be a sufficient cause for a dissolution of the Union. I think he would wait for some overt act. I should consider the election of such a candidate, by a Northern sectional majority, as a declaration of war against our rights; and I rejoice in the belief that those whom I represent, and the gallant State to which I owe my first and highest allegiance, will not hesitate in such contingency, let the consequences be what they may, to fall back on their reserved rights, and declare to the world, 'As for this Union, we have no longer any lot or part in it.'"

Next comes the sentiment of Mr. Curry, of Alabama, who is one of the coolest, clearest, and most gentlemanly Democrats in the House. On the 10th instant, (see *Globe*, p. 95,) he made use of the following language:

"Now, sir, however distasteful it may be to my friend from New York [Mr. Clark], however much it may revolt the public sentiment or conscience of this country, I am not ashamed or afraid publicly to avow that the election of William H. Seward or Salmon P. Chase, or any such representative of the Republican party, upon a sectional platform, ought to be resisted to the disruption of every tie that binds this Confederacy together."

The *Globe* report shows, though the pamphlet edition of his speech does not, that this declaration was applauded on the Democratic side.

On the 14th December, Mr. McRae, of Mississippi, spoke as follows:

"Well, sir, I do not hesitate to say here, as I said to my constituents at home—and I was sent here, first, without seeking the position, and I was sent back again without opposition—that if a Republican President is elected upon that platform under which they say they will legislate the rights of the Southern portion of the Confederacy away, I, for one, am not willing to submit to it. I said to my constituents, and to the people at the capital of my State (as my way has been) that I should act as I should occur, while it would be their duty to determine the course which the State would pursue, it would be my privilege to counsel with them as to what I believed to be the proper course; and I said to them, that I felt that I was always say in such an event, that my counsel would be to take independence out of the Union, in preference to the loss of constitutional rights, and consequent degradation and dishonor in it. That is my position, and it is the position which I know the Democratic party of the State of Mississippi will maintain." (See *Globe*, p. 157.)

Two days later, we find Mr. Bonham, of South Carolina, speaking for himself, his constituents, and, as he thinks, for his State, thus:

"Gentlemen of the North talk of forcing us back into the Union; and the honorable gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Hickman] speaks of the numerous ties associated with it, we do not desire its preservation, except in strict accordance with the Constitution.

"4. *Resolved*, That the election of William H. Seward, or of any member of the Black Republican party, for the Presidency of the United States, ought to be immediately followed by the secession of all the slaveholding States from this Confederacy, and the prevention of any organization of a Federal Administration under such President.

"5. *Resolved*, That a Vigilance Committee of twelve, for this magisterial district, be appointed by the Chair, (and that the citizens be requested to assist them,) whose duty it shall be to arrest, examine, and search, for the purpose, all suspicious interant strangers, pedlars, &c., who may be found associating, or be suspected of associating, with slaves or free negroes, and to take such steps as will effectually prevent their meddling with them."

The Chair then appointed vigilance committees, under the foregoing resolutions.

Richmond county is of course very decided as to the character of certain Northern statesmen and preachers, which on the subject of non-intercourse she out-helps Mr. Helper.

"*Resolved*, That we regard Sewaid, Hale, Sumner, Wilson, and the entire band of abolitionists, including the treachery, perjury, and murder-advocating harangues of Northern pulpits, more guilty of treason and murder and more deserving of the felon's doom than was John Brown himself.

"*Resolved*, That non-intercourse with Northern people shall be our motto hereafter; and we pledge ourselves that it shall be strictly adhered to."

Here is what the people of Prince Edward's county say of the fate of the Union, and with their resolve I drop the scissors:

"4. That we look to the result of the next election of a President as probably decisive of the fate of the Union; and we hold, that if that election result in the success of the Abolition or Black Republican party, on the principles now avowed by that party, then the time will have come when the South may be compelled, by a proper regard to her interests and her rights, to withdraw from the Union."

And now, in view of these bitter, proscriptive, and disunion sentiments, what shall be said of the Democratic party? Shall it be called a Disunion party? That would not be strictly fair, though it would be a thousand times nearer the truth than is the charge of disunion when even a "richer lead;" but can have only given samples from an almost inexhaustible mine. Passing by the action of the South Carolina and other Southern Legislatures, let us see what the people are doing. I have before me two numbers of the Richmond *Enquirer*, the Democratic organ of Virginia, and I may with truth add, the leading Democratic paper of the South. Thus, Hon. Charles J. Faulkner, of Va., was the other day appointed one of a committee to superintend the distribution of Democratic documents for the next campaign; and yet, since the Harper's Ferry raid, he has expressed the following sentiment in a speech delivered to a meeting in Berkley county, over which he presided:

"When that noble and gallant son of Virginia, Henry A. Wise, declared, as he did in October, 1856, that if Fremont should be elected, *he would seize the National arsenal at Harper's Ferry*, how few would at that time have justified so bold and decided a measure? *It is the fortune of some great and gifted minds to see far in advance of their contemporaries.* Should William H. Seward be elected in 1860, when is the man now in our midst *who would not call for the impeachment of a Governor of Virginia who would silently suffer that armory to pass under the control of such an Executive head?*"

Now, suppose, instead of uttering this revolting sentiment, he had said, as he did say a few years ago in a speech in Virginia House of Delegates, on the subject of slavery, "Sir, being thus injurious, have we not a right to demand its extermination? *Shall society suffer, that the slaveholder may continue to gather his crop of human flesh?*" Must the country languish, droop, *die*, that the slaveholder may flourish?" Does any one suppose that with such sentiments, coupled with fresh ties his life in 1859, he could have found a place on a Democratic committee anywhere? *No; the lamentable truth is, that rank disunionism disqualifies a man for nomination!* Nor can fellowship, while outspoken opposition to slavery does.

To one other matter I would like to refer, but do it very briefly. I allude to the tameness and meekness with which these threats of secession are sometimes received by Northern Democrats. They can even see it to be right to apologize for their utterance. For example: after Senator *Iverson* proposed and advised secession on the election of Mr. Sherman, as already quoted, a distinguished Northern Senator spoke as follows:

"Now, sir, I do not agree with the extreme views of my friend from Georgia. I have told him over and over that the only effect of his doctrines is to scare those who stand by the rights of the South, in the North. But, sir, the difference in the position of the Northern and Southern States on this subject ought to be apparent to every intelligent people in the North, who do not, I think, properly realize the position of Southern men. I mean that they do not allow themselves to realize the position of the Southern people. Suppose we had any common institution in the North—it matters not what it might be; it might be the relation of marriage, if you please, or some general law regulating commerce or the sale of liquor—suppose we had maintained it for a long time, and believed it to be right, believed it to be in no way offensive to Christianity or morality; and suppose the Southern people were constantly denouncing us because of that law; suppose they were to assimilate it to Mormonism; suppose they used degrading epithets in reference to it, and even suggested that, because of that institution, they would have no further intercourse with us, and that they could not live in the same Union with us, that intercourse would be degrading, or would be, to some extent, countenancing a great wrong; ask, how would we feel, and how would we act?"

I cannot comment coolly on such language, nor indeed is comment necessary.

Verily, there are clouds in our political sky, and he who does not heed them is not wise.

Since this article was written, Mr. Faulkner has been confirmed as Minister to France.

For the National Era.

PROSPECTIVE INCREASE OF THE COLORED RACE IN THE U. STATES.

It was said some years ago, by a very talented gentleman, who had been in Congress, from Pennsylvania, and had resigned his seat, that making speeches in Congress was only a way of writing for the newspapers. But he said it had one advantage over other modes of writing for the newspapers; it secured the publication of a great deal of matter that otherwise would never get into print.

I have just now, from a large number of gentlemen at Washington, engaged in this mode of writing for the newspapers; and no sensible man can fail to be satisfied, on reading the effusions of most of them, that if they had not been speeches in Congress they never would have been printed; and, moreover, that if they never had been printed, it would have been much better for the reputation of their authors.

The great subjects of debate in Congress, so far, this year, have been the negro question and the dissolution of the Union. These, every one will admit, are important matters; and, with your leave, I propose to look at them a little:

The number of negroes, free and slaves, in the United States—

In 1790	757,263
In 1800	1,001,436
In 1810	1,379,800
In 1820	1,771,656
In 1830	2,328,642
In 1840	2,873,703
In 1850	3,591,000

Taking the ratio of increase to be hereafter as it was from 1790 to 1850, in 1860 there will be of negroes in the United States—

In 1860	4,488,750
In 1870	5,610,937
In 1880	7,013,696
In 1890	8,767,120
In 1900	10,958,900
In 1910	13,698,625
In 1920	17,123,281
In 1930	21,404,001
In 1940	26,755,111
In 1950	33,443,888
In 1960	41,804,860

In one hundred years from this time, at the present rate of increase, there will be in the United States 41,804,860 negroes, and they will be almost all within the bounds of the States in which slavery now exists. In many of the free States there have been laws passed already to keep negroes from coming into them to settle. We may blame those States as much as we please for passing such laws, but it is nevertheless a fact, that such laws have been passed, and that they accord with the public opinion of the States in which they have been passed. It is, moreover, a fact, think of its propriety as we may, that there is a strong and a growing dislike in all the free States against having a negro population within them. And, judging from present indications, it will not be many years till there will be laws in all the free States prohibiting the immigration of negroes. Now, if this should take place, the South will have no place for its negroes, whether it will or not. It may pass laws reducing the negroes to slavery. But that will not mend the matter. Whether free or bond, they will be still among them; and, as Judge Catron says, the only effect of reducing the free negroes to slavery will be to send them into their negro quarters to preach rebellion.

Now, just think of the condition of our slave States, with forty millions of negroes in them—forty millions of negroes, with the wrongs of centuries rankling in their bosoms, and prompting them to take vengeance on their oppressors. We are told, by Southern newspapers and Southern members of Congress, that the motto of every man, woman, and child in the South sleeps at night now, for fear of being murdered by their slaves. If they live in such terror now, with four millions of negroes among them, what will be the case with their grandaughters, with forty millions of negroes among them? Would it not be wise in Southern men to stop in the midst of their blustering and bullying, and reflect a little on this matter? Has it ever occurred to them to ask themselves how their great-grandchildren are going to hold forty millions of negroes in slavery? Or their grandchildren twenty-five millions? Or their children fifteen millions? When in the words laborer ever free forty millions of persons been held in slavery in any country? Does not every intelligent man know that such a thing has never been done? And does not every man's instincts teach him that such a thing never can be done? Our Southern friends are very much in the habit of boasting about their honor and chivalry. Is it either honorable or chivalrous to leave such an inheritance as this for the South children's children?—an inheritance that, as sure as God is the truth than is the charge of disunion when made against Republicans. It is fair, and only fair, to say that *it is in affiliation with the disunionists.* Within its ranks, and in good standing, there is room for all the men who have uttered these disunion speeches and endorsed these proscriptive and disunion resolves. No one proposes to read them out of the party. On the contrary, they have the confidence of those in high places. Thus, Hon. Charles J. Faulkner, of Va., was the other day appointed one of a committee to superintend the distribution of Democratic documents for the next campaign; and yet, since the Harper's Ferry raid, he has expressed the following sentiment in a speech delivered to a meeting in Berkley county, over which he presided:

negro continues to be human, and to have human feelings, will be an inheritance of blood.

When the ancient Egyptians saw the Hebrews, their slaves, increasing among them, their King said, "Behold, they of the children of Israel will be more and mightier than we. Let us deal wisely with them, lest they multiply, and it come to pass that, when there falleth out any war, they join our enemies, and fight against us. And he spake to the Hebrew midwives, that, whenever a Hebrew woman bore a son, they should kill him," and in that way prevent them from multiplying. There was certainly much cruelty and wickedness in this; but there was, at the same time, much cunning in it. It was, at the least, a pretty sure way to prevent the Hebrew slaves from increasing to such an extent as to become dangerous to the Egyptians, their masters. Nobody would justify the Egyptians in attempting to prevent, in the way they did, the Hebrews from multiplying; but at the same time, nobody can fail to see that their fears, on account of their multiplying, were well founded. There was not only danger that when they became more and mightier than the Egyptians, they would, in case of a war, join their enemies, and fight against them, but that they would rise up themselves, and murder their masters. Our Southern slaveholders do not have the wise foresight of the Egyptians. They see their negro slaves increasing at a rate that is not but he alarming to every sane man; and yet, instead of taking any steps to prevent the increase, they are clamorous to hasten it, by importing more negroes from Africa. If it is true that Heaven is about to visit a country when it makes mad, one cannot contemplate the conduct of our Southern friends in this respect without sad forebodings.

The Southern politicians, if their bullying speeches are an index of their thoughts, seem ready to go to war with the North and all the rest of the civilized world, on account of slavery. Governor Wise is reported to have said lately in a speech in Richmond, that he was ready to overrun the North, and to invade Canada, to chastise the British for harboring runaway slaves. Would it not be well for those valorous Southrons to reflect, as Pharaoh did, while they are so ready to go for their slaves, in case of war, joining their enemies, and fighting against their masters? Would it not, at least, be prudent for his Governorship to have reflected whether, when he is on his foray to the Northern and British Canada, there will not be danger of the slaves rising up and spreading fire and blood through the South? Leaving the Northern States out of view, if the Governor of Virginia should invade British territory, is anybody who knows anything about Great Britain silly enough to think that it would put return the compliment by invading Virginia? What would his excellency think, if England should send a fleet of war steamers into the Chesapeake, and land a few black regiments among the "first families?" Possibly our Southern friends have overlooked the fact, that Great Britain keeps constantly a large, well-disciplined, well-equipped, army of "blacks," within a few hours sail of our shores—an army which, if it was to land in our Southern States, the great mass of the slaves would hail as their brothers and deliverers. If they have overlooked this fact, would it not be well for them to post themselves up in regard to it, before they indulge much in boastings like that of Governor Wise?

But the South is going to dissolve the Union if the North does not let it have its own way in regard to slavery. Southern editors and Southern members of Congress talk about the dissolution of the Union, as if they thought that all that was necessary to do, was to say so, and leave them to speak the word. But, if they try the thing, they will find themselves terribly mistaken. It is not the nature of great nations to be dissolved by a word. The world has never seen such a thing happen, much as they may will. Nothing in the world dies without a struggle. The death struggle of everything is commensurate with its strength. The death struggle of a mighty nation has never done less than make the world tremble; and our nation is not going to be an exception in this respect. To talk about dissolving the Union peaceably, is to talk like big babies. The thing is impossible. The very quarrelsomeness and rancor that makes a disunion necessary will immutably prevent it from taking place peaceably.

Now, let a war take place between the North and the South to dissolve the Union, it will be a war between slavery, on the one side, and the people of both sections; it will be so viewed by the black slaves of the South, as well as by the white freemen. In such a war, which side will the black slaves of the South take? Will they take the side of their oppressors and enslavers, or of those whom they will believe to be their deliverers? If John Brown's foray threw the South into such a paroxysm of terror, what would an invasion by a Northern army do? But it would not be an invasion at a single point that the South would have to guard against in case of a war between it and the North; it would have to guard its whole line, from the Atlantic to the Rio Grande, both against systematic invasions and predatory incursions; it would have to build a Chinese wall along it all the way, to keep its slaves from running off, and even that would not do it.

But the slaves are not alone in having their bite. No man who is given to much talking is ever good at fighting. A coward bullies and threatens; a brave man, without noise or bluster, strikes. This is the teaching both of philosophy and experience. Notwithstanding all the continual blatamy and bragging of our Southern friends, there is not much need for us to fret about the safety of the Union. ***

Items Telegraphed from Washington.

Washington, Feb. 5.—A number of Democrats who have come to Washington to confer with the Southern Democrats in Congress, and propose to advocate the admission of Kansas into the Union with the Wyandotte Constitution, changing the boundaries so as to include Pike's Peak and the gold region, and the Territory of Nebraska on the South Platte river, the change to be submitted to the vote of the people of Kansas, and when ratified, they are to be admitted as a State by proclamation of the President.

Hon. Marcus J. Parrott, General Pomeroy, Judge Arny, and other Republicans, who are here from Kansas, insist on the admission of Kansas under the Wyandotte Constitution, without any alteration, that Constitution having already ratified by two-thirds of the citizens of the Territory. The question of population will not be urged, as Judge Pettit, of Kansas, has said he is confident there are at the present time twenty thousand inhabitants, which comes up fully to the requirements of Mr. English's bill. It is also proposed to resist the organization of any new Territories. They want to attach Decotah and the region round about to Nebraska, while Utah and the Territories south of Kansas are to be annexed to New Mexico, and to follow its fortunes. To this it is objected, that having secured slavery in New Mexico by law, this immense Territory should not be brought under the same enactment, which would then secure it to slavery forever.

FROM KANSAS AND UTAH.—*Leavenworth, Feb. 4.*—The Territorial Legislature has passed an act incorporating the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express, being a reorganization of the Pike's Peak Express Company, with an increased capital and a wider field of operations.

A bill abolishing slavery has been under consideration, but no definite action has been taken upon it, both branches of the Legislature being principally engaged with local legislation.

Martin F. Conway, the Congressman elect under the Wyandotte Constitution, left some days since for Washington, to appear before the Senate's Harper's Ferry investigating committee.

Judging from the late adoption of the Wyandotte Constitution, the general belief is that the project for organizing Southern States of Kansas will be voted down by a large majority.

The news from Salt Lake by yesterday's arrival is unimportant. It was said that considerable excitement existed among the heads of "the church," in consequence of the evidences that a large emigration would take place from the Territory in the spring to Pike's Peak and Carson Valley. Brigham Young strongly opposes such emigration.

☞ All letters for the *National Era* must be addressed to MRS. M. L. BAILEY, *National Era, Washington, D. C.*

The Index to Volume XIII of the *Era* is now ready, and will be furnished, free of charge, to any subscriber who may express a desire to have a copy.

TO ADVERTISERS.—Business men will find it greatly to their advantage to advertise in the *Era*.

Messrs. Pettingill & Co., S. B. Niles, and Joy, Coe, & Co., are our authorized advertising agents for Boston New York, and Philadelphia.

The following gentlemen are accredited agents for the *Era*: G. W. Light, Boston, Mass; J. A. Innis, Salem, Mass.; Thomas Wheeler, Cincinnati, Ohio; L. T. Park, Mount Union, Ohio; Joseph Hughes, Philadelphia, Pa.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1860.

THE SPEAKER.—The Opposition majority in the House of Representatives succeeded, on Wednesday last, in electing the Hon. William Pennington, of New Jersey, to the office of Speaker, on the forty-fourth ballot. Mr. Pennington is a gentleman of high respectability; he has been Governor of his native State, and filled other posts of distinction, and was offered the position of Governor of Minnesota by Gen. Taylor, which offer he declined. Mr. Pennington always co-operated with the Whig party while that organization existed, and at present is known as a conservative Republican. The Republican party in the House evinced their preference for Mr. Sherman, but we believe that thus far there has been nothing like chagrin manifested at the necessity which has compelled the selection of Mr. Pennington instead. Every confidence is felt that he will discharge his duties faithfully, and acceptably to the friends who have elected him.

ELECTION OF EX-GOVERNOR CHASE TO THE SENATE.—One of the most gratifying events of the day is the election of Mr. Chase to the United States Senate for six years from the 4th of March, 1861. Mr. C. served in the Senate six years, commencing in 1849, and ending in 1855, during a period of great agitation and discussion upon the slavery question; and it is doing but simple justice to say that he sustained himself with a dignity, ability, and devotion to the cause of freedom, rarely equalled. He took a leading part in the discussion upon the repeal of the Missouri compromise, and his speeches on that subject remain to this day text books for the guidance of the politician and student of history.

His return to the Senate will be a source of rejoicing to the whole Republican party of the country, if, indeed, he is not in the mean time called to fill a higher post, for which his qualifications and character admirably fit him.

Since Mr. Chase has been out of the Senate, he has been twice elected to the office of Governor of Ohio, which position he has filled with eminent ability and usefulness. The people honor and serve themselves when they call such men to the high places of power.

CONGRESSIONAL ITEMS.—The House adjourned over from Monday to Thursday, in order to give time for arranging the Committees, which is always a work of great delicacy and importance. It seems to be understood that Mr. Sherman will be chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, and that Mr. Grow will be at the head of the Territorial Committee. These gentlemen are eminently and peculiarly qualified for the posts to which rumor and public opinion has assigned them. It is stated that the chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Relations was tendered to Mr. Burlingame, of Massachusetts, and that he generously declined in favor of Mr. Corwin, of Ohio. Mr. B. will take the next place under him.

A HINT FOR THE DISUNIONISTS.—The disunionists profess to believe that if the South were to withdraw from the Union, the manufactures and commerce of the North would sustain an irreparable loss, and that the Northern Confederacy would become miserably poor, while the prosperity of the South would be unprecedented. Now, for the sake of argument, we may admit that the injury to the North would be as great as the disunionists insist upon; and we will proceed to show how they will be affected by it. They expect to sell their cotton to England, chiefly. But how can England afford to buy cotton and manufacture it, if her greatest market is ruined? The disunion gentry will find, upon examination, that the United States are England's best customers, and it will also know that three-fourths of foreign importations are consumed in the free States. Whatever impairs the prosperity of these States must therefore destroy the manufacturing capabilities of England.

The assumption that the North cannot exist without the South is a silly one, which is refuted by the prosperity of Canada. But, allowing it to be true, and it follows, that the South must suffer as much indirectly, as the North directly, from disunion.

MR. GIDDINGS BEFORE THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.—The Harper's Ferry Iuvestigating Committee have had Mr. Giddings before it during the past week, but the sum of his evidence only goes to show that he has been a pretty close student of Jefferson's writings, including the Declaration of Independence. He had seen John Brown, and heard him lecture upon slavery, but knew nothing in the world of his Harper's Ferry schemes.

Dr. Howe, of Boston, gave similar testimony. He knew nothing of the Harper's Ferry affair. His testimony goes to substantiate that given by Senator Wilson. The latter gentleman was told by Forbes, that Brown meditated some violent and unlawful proceeding, whereupon, Wilson wrote to Dr. Howe, urging that the Kansas Aid Society should immediately take from him the arms which had been given him to defend the Territory.

THE HARPER'S FERRY TRIALS.—These trials have been completely dead-locked in consequence of the difficulty of empanelling a jury. It has been found impossible to get together twelve citizens of Jefferson county who have not "formed or expressed an opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the prisoner at the bar," and the court has resorted to the unusual expedient of summoning a panel from Frederick county.

CALIFORNIA.—By the overland California mail, which arrived at St. Louis on Monday, we learn that the newly-elected Governor, Latham, has been nominated by the Democratic Legislative caucus for the post of United States Senator, in place of Mr. Broderick. We believe that Mr. Latham is a Southerner, while Mr. Weller is from Ohio, and these facts will explain the cause of Mr. Weller's defeat. California is under the rule of the slavery oligarchy, and she must submit until the Democracy is overthrown. Mr. Broderick was from the North, and his fate is a warning to ambitious Yankees. It is said that Mr. Gwin is to be superseded by Judge Baldwin, a Virginian. This may be doubted, but at most it would only continue the rule of the slave oligarchy in other hands.

THE INCONSOLABLE DEMOCRACY.—The Sham Democracy are inconsolable on account of the election of Mr. Forney to the office of Clerk of the House. They make merry over the election of Speaker, because he is not the first choice of the Republican party; but Forney they can never forgive. They mourn and anathematize from morning until night.

It is said that Mr. Gleashrenner, the late Sergeant-at-arms, paid to members $131,000 during the three days of his official term.

INCREASE OF THE SLAVE POPULATION.

We call the attention of our Southern readers to the article on this subject, from the pen of a correspondent. They may deprecate the agitation of the slavery question, if they please, but here is a great fact, which either they or their posterity will be compelled to take cognizance of. The increase of population is a law as little dependent upon the will of rulers as gravitation or fermentation. In vain will the friends of slavery endeavor to hush it up. The evil is upon them, and still grows larger, day by day. In a century, as shown by our correspondent, the South will contain forty millions of negroes. Here is no fancy picture—no goblin horn of a diseased imagination—but a frightful reality! Is it a crime to remind the South that population increases in a geometrical ratio? Will the people of that section shut their ears and close their eyes, and denounce us as public enemies, for warning them of the fearful future that lies before them?

In vain will the Southern people flatter themselves that if slavery increases numerically, it will be proportionally extended. There is no ground for such a hope. There are various causes which forbid it. In the first place, there is little prospect of extending the system at all. *Slavery at present is under no necessity of expansion, and there exists no tendency towards it.* Before the era of railroads, the case was otherwise. Then, a few years of slave cultivation served to exhaust the soil, and to compel emigration. But internal improvements have enabled the South to improve its agriculture, and to bring a vast tract of land under cultivation, which without the improvements would be unavailable. The prosperity of the South—its internal development—has been fatal to its expansive tendency. In the first half century of our national existence, as well as during the colonial era, the South expanded faster than the North; and Kentucky and Tennessee were peopled before Ohio. The South not only won these fine Territories from free labor, but came very near seizing Indiana and Illinois. Indeed, slavery did make its way into these Territories, but public virtue was still strong enough to resist, and to hold them to the principles of the ordinance of 1787. Missouri, though far remote from the old slave States—as remote, all things considered, as California was in 1850—fell a prey to the grasping ambition of the slave interest; and but for the famous compromise of 1820, the institution would have taken root in what is now Kansas and Nebraska. That act of restriction, though repealed in 1854, did its work. It held back slavery until the free-labor element in the country, backed by foreign immigration, was able to stay its progress, without the intervention of Government. The first indication of the change in the relative strength of the two forces was given in 1850, when California was made a free State, by the mere preponderance of the free-labor element, and against the unscrupulous intrigues of the politicians of the territory, most of whom were from the South. In 1854, '55, '56, and '57, the superior energy of free labor over slavery made itself manifest, in the Kansas struggle, under circumstances still less favorable; and there remains no longer any danger of carrying the institution into the Territories now belonging to the Union.

The result of this change in the relative strength of free and slave labor has been to cause a remarkable change of position among politicians in regard to the power and duty of Congress. When it was almost a matter of course that every Territory where slavery was tolerated would become a slave State, the North contended that Congress should exclude it; but since it is apparent that slavery can be whipped and driven off the field by free labor, it cannot be denied that many anti-slavery men are growing indifferent about exercising the right of slavery restriction. On the other hand, the "Democratic" or pro-slavery politicians, who formerly boasted that they only asked to be let alone, and that they never asked the Government to protect slavery, now make it an essential plank in their platforms that slavery must be protected in the Territories.

Here, then, is a fact calculated to discourage the hopes of the slavery propagandists. But there is another, equally fatal to their prospects. There is no country south or west of the present boundaries of the slave States which is peculiarly adapted to slavery. Mexico was subject to Spain and to the law of slavery for three centuries, and yet it probably never contained twenty thousand African slaves. It has never proved to be capable of first-rate importance, and hence slavery has never taken root. It is probable that, with no obstacle in the way, slavery would gradually diffuse itself over that country, but the slaveholders would first settle up the far better lands in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas, which still remain untouched in their virgin fertility. But that they will leave better lands behind them, in order to wage a hootless war with free labor, such as they had experience of in Kansas, is highly improbable.

Mexico has in all its more desirable States a large population at the present time, a free population, hostile to slavery; and this, of itself, would be an insuperable obstacle to the introduction of slavery. If we add to it the free-labor immigration which would pour in from the North and from Europe in the event of its annexation, there remains scarcely a possibility that slavery could be introduced. The slaves, as fast as they should be carried to Mexico, would blend with its mixed population on equal terms, and would find ten friends where the master would find one.

There is therefore no probability that slavery will ever go beyond its present limits; and, as our correspondent has shown, the South will in a century contain forty millions of bondmen and free blacks. That their enormous increase will drive out the poor whites, we have no doubt. A Southern writer, in South Carolina last year, which exhibited the unhappy fact, that, even in that sparsely-peopled State, the blacks are crowding out the poor whites, and in effect that South Carolina is becoming Africanized. If such consequences flow from slavery where the population is sparse, not numbering more than twenty-five to the square mile, what will they be when it amounts to a hundred, not only in that State, but throughout the Southern country? Is it not evident that the great body of the poor laboring whites must seek homes in the free West?

We have here supposed that slavery will continue until this fearful state of things arrives, when forty millions of slaves shall inhabit the territory where now four millions are felt to be a source of fearful apprehension. But the evil, if no remedy is sought and found, will culminate in ruin long before the end of a century, or even half a century. The moral, economical, social, and political forces, which are pressing upon it from every side, will sweep it away long ere it reaches the frightful proportions which the mere law of population would give it within that period of time.

But if it were practicable to extend slavery over the whole of Mexico, its effect would be only to double its area; and a quarter of a century, or a little more, would serve to cover its whole surface with slaves, as the South is now covered. So that the enslavement of the whole of Mexico could only postpone the evil day for one generation. But even this alleviation is impracticable, if not impossible, and the South must year by year see the fearful evil increasing in magnitude. The pictures which Mr. Jefferson and other great men of the Revolution drew of it are beginning to be realized. Their prophecies are about being fulfilled. It is still possible to arrest the danger, by timely and judicious remedies, by amelioration and colonization; but the most dangerous and fatal course of all is to do nothing. The South forces agitation, by its efforts to extend slavery; but, if it did not, if it were passive, the best thing that could happen to it would be agitation, even if it were forced upon it, as alleged, by the North.

VIRGINIA NULLIFICATION PROJECTS.

There are two measures pending in the Virginia Legislature, each contemplating a deliberate violation of the Constitution of the United States, which its members have taken a solemn oath to support. The first is, "A bill making regulations concerning special licenses." It provides that certain enumerated goods of Northern produce and manufacture shall not be sold within the State of Virginia without a special license, and that a tax shall be levied on all such sales, unless the goods shall have been imported directly from abroad, or shall have been produced or manufactured in the State, or in any of the slaveholding States, or shall have been immediately carried by the purchaser beyond the limits of the State.

It is scarcely necessary to show that the passage of such an act as this would be in direct violation of the Constitution, and therefore null and void. The Constitution expressly provides that "Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;" and that "No State shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any imposts, or duties on imports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws; and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any State on the imports or exports, shall be for the use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the Congress."

In view of these clauses of the Constitution, it needs no legal or constitutional learning to perceive the palpable nullity of the proposed Virginia statute. As well might the Legislature of Virginia attempt the establishment of an order of nobility, or to adopt some form of religion, or to negotiate a treaty with England, as to establish a Southern protective tariff. Every man who votes for this bill must feel conscious that he is faithless to his oath of office. The case is too clear for dispute, and it would be far more manly and honorable for Virginia to secede from the Union, than to enact this bill into a law, by men who have sworn to support the Constitution.

This case is not at all parallel to the nullification act of South Carolina, or to the personal liberty bills of Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and Vermont. In those cases, the people and their Legislatures sincerely believed that they were vindicating the Constitution. South Carolina regarded a tariff for protection to home industry as a tax upon the consumer for the benefit of the manufacturer; and that the Constitution gives no warrant for such legislation. In like manner, the States which have enacted personal liberty bills regard certain features of the fugitive slave law as unconstitutional and oppressive; and, acting upon the doctrine of the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions of 1798 and 1799, they have declared them null and void.

But the tariff which Virginia now proposes to enact upon Northern goods and products, discriminating in favor of all Southern States, against all Northern States, can be defended on no such grounds. It is simply an attempt to abolish the Constitution of the United States, in order to gratify the sectional hatred and jealousy which is the ruling motive of action with her Democratic demagogues. In a word, it is legislative treason and perjury.

The other instance in which the legislators of Virginia, with ex-Gov. Wise, and probably Gov. Letcher, at their head, propose to violate the plain letter of the Constitution, is furnished in the proposition to form an alliance or treaty with South Carolina and other Southern States, the object of which is, in a certain contingency, to break up the Union. The combinations among the States were anticipated by the framers of the Constitution, and specially forbidden. The following clauses of the 10th section of the first article are directly in point:

"No State shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation," &c. And again: "No State shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops or ships of war in time of peace, *enter into any agreement or compact with another State, or with a foreign Power,*" &c.

These clauses precisely meet the case presented in the proposition of South Carolina. It proposes a conference, with a view to the adoption of a certain line of policy for thwarting or overturning the Federal Government. The letter of the Constitution forbids agreements or compacts among the States for legitimate purposes; but here is a proposition before the Virginia Legislature to enter into a compact for rebellion against the Federal Government. That it will call for the interposition of the Government, for the overthrow of the treasonable plot, admits not of a doubt. We see it stated in the Richmond *Enquirer* that there is a probability of the scheme being defeated. That "Democratic" organ deprecates its defeat as a great calamity, of course; but we sincerely trust that its fears may be realized. If, however, the Legislature enters into the "compact" with South Carolina, it will become the duty of the President to interpose and put a stop to any practical execution of the treasonable conspiracy. Whether the present Executive will be equal to the emergency, may well be doubted.

ANOTHER SPEECH FROM EX-GOVERNOR WISE.—Ex-Governor Wise, of Virginia, has lately been feasted by the members of the Legislature, on which occasion he made one of his characteristic speeches. He argued at great length to show that his military preparations for the execution of John Brown and his confederates were justified by the threats which were made of an attempt to rescue the prisoners. He states that he received sixty letters per day for sixty days, which would amount to 3,600, warning him of the intended rescue. This, it must be confessed, was an astonishing amount of smoke, considering that there was no more fire. Gov. Wise at one moment, when his valor seems to be brought in question, declares that he feared nothing, and that his sole object was to take advantage of the excitement, in order to foster the military spirit among the people. In the next breath he spoils this theory, by averring, as above stated, that nothing but the great military display saved the State from the disgrace of a rescue.

He is equally inconsistent and incoherent in what he has to say about preserving the Union. At one moment, he blazes all over with patriotic, Union-loving sentiments, and in the next he avows and justifies his treasonable conspiracy with the Southern Governors in 1856, and declares that he would do the same thing over again. He, in the same spirit, urges the Legislature to enter into a compact with South Carolina for the overthrow of the Government; but he declines saying that the election of a Republican President will justify disunion.

WORK FOR MR. DOUGLAS.

Mr. Douglas, in his efforts to clear his skirts from all stains of suspicion, as a devoted friend of slavery and slavery extension, attempts to show that the Harper's Ferry invasion is a legitimate fruit of the teachings of the Republican leaders. To this end, he quotes from the speeches of Messrs. Lincoln and Seward, in which those gentlemen contend that there is an irrepressible conflict between slavery and freedom. But does Mr. Douglas know that Henry Clay proclaimed the same irrepressible conflict in 1827, and told what prodigies must be wrought before it can be checked? He will do well to examine Mr. Clay's programme of work to be done. In addressing the American

She has ever been and will ever remain loyal to the Union and the Constitution. While yet in my earliest manhood, I put on record my conviction, 'that in all future as in all past circumstances, Ohio will cleave fast to the National Constitution and the National Union, and that her growing energies will on no occasion be more willingly or powerfully put forth than in the support and maintenance of both in unimpaired vigor and strength.' That conviction remains unchanged.

"Now do I doubt, Mr. President, that the spirit and purpose of Ohio is the spirit and purpose of all the States whose worthy and honored representatives we so gladly greet here tonight.

"We will not surrender the proud title of American citizens. We will not renounce our portion in the glories of the Imperial Republic. We will not madly fling away the most blessed boon of free institutions ever vouchsafed by Heaven by man. We will not prepare for our children, instead of the noble heritage of freedom, prosperity, and peace, which our fathers transmitted to us, a detestable inheritance of despotism, calamity, and civil war.

"No, no—I repeat, emphatically, no. We will compose whatever differences have arisen or may arise in the spirit of our fathers. Claiming, mutually, nothing that we think wrong, we will concede, mutually, whatever we find to be just. Cherishing, above all, with the constant ardor of Washington, 'a cordial and immovable attachment,' to the Federal Union, we will resolve, with the inflexible determination of Jackson, that 'it must be preserved.'"

The speech of Gov. Chase was enthusiastically received—the Tennessees, Kentuckies, and Ohioans, seeming to be equally pleased with it.

Yesterday morning, the military accompanied the guests of the State to the cars. Gov. Dennison and the Legislature of Ohio went with them to Cincinnati, via Dayton. After their departure, a dispatch was received from Gov. Morgan, of New York, announcing the passage of a resolution by the New York Legislature, inviting the Legislatures of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio, with the Executive officers of their respective States, to visit Albany. The message, however, was not received until after the guests had departed for their homes. G.

NEW YORK.—The Republican State Committee of New York have called a State Convention at Syracuse on the 18th of April. The committee were unanimously in favor of Mr. Seward for President. Governor Morgan stated that, as Chairman of the National Republican Executive Committee, he had addressed letters to its members, inquiring what are their views in regard to changing the time for the National Convention. Almost without exception, so far as heard from, they were against a change.

A resolution was adopted in favor of the election of delegates to Chicago by the State Convention, in preference to the district system. It is alleged that in this way a harmonious delegation may be obtained. But we apprehend that the district system is best calculated to give expression to the will of the people. We presume that the State Convention will dispose of the question in its own way, regardless of the opinion of the committee. The caucus system should be extended no farther than is absolutely necessary to keep up party organization. When carried beyond this point, it becomes an offensive oligarchy, corrupt and dictorial.

A LETTER FROM NAPOLEON TO THE POPE.—The French commander at Rome, Gen. Guyon, made a formal visit to the Pope on the first of January, during which his Holiness expressed the hope that the Emperor would "admit the falseness of certain principles which have lately appeared in a pamphlet, which may be called a striking monument of hypocrisy and an ignoble tissue of contradictions." But his hopes were in a few days dissipated by the arrival of a letter from Napoleon, in which he substantially repeats the views of the obnoxious pamphlet. He is full of professions of reverence, and, with the greatest desire in the world to uphold the temporal power of the Pope, he feels the necessity of yielding to fate. He calls upon the Holy Father to make a surrender of his revolted provinces on the altar of peace, and says that the Powers of Europe will guaranty him in the possession of what remains.

The People's party of Delaware are discussing the propriety of sending delegates to the Chicago Convention. They have the opportunity to redeem the State from thraldom to the slave Democracy, and they will regret it, if they suffer the opportunity to pass unimproved.

SERENADE.—The Speaker, Mr. Pennington, was serenaded at Willard's, on Thursday evening last. A large number of persons were present, and speeches were made by that gentleman, by Mr. Sherman, Mr. Burlingame, and others.

METHODISM IN THE UNITED STATES.—The Methodists embrace the largest number of Christians of any one denomination in America. From the *Christian Advocate and Journal* we learn that their numbers are as follows:

Methodist Episcopal Church, (North,) exclusive of Foreign German and Liberia Conference	954,918
Methodist Episcopal Church South	700,000
American Wesleyan Methodist	21,000
Methodist Protestant Church	70,000
African Methodist Episcopal Church	20,000
African Meth. Episcopal Zion Church	6,203
Evangelical Association	40,000
United Brethren in Christ	82,013
Minor Divisions	10,000
Total	1,923,134

These figures only embrace the communicants or active professors of religion. If the families which sympathize with the Methodists be included, which is the mode of enumerating the Catholics and some other denominations, the total number of Methodists would be perhaps seven or eight millions. The Baptists come next in numerical strength.

LETTER FROM CHINA.

CANTON, *Nov.* 11, 1859.

To the Editor of the National Era:

In my former letters I gave you some account of the coolie trade, as it is conducted by the Spanish and Portuguese, who employ the largest and finest American ships to transport the "free emigrants" to Cuba. New facts are constantly becoming known, which illustrate the fiendish character of the business. The American consular agent at Whampoa is aware of the plans used to deceive and entrap the ignorant and unwary, and he has been the means of handing over to the mandarins five of the Chinese coolie brokers who were caught in the act of forcing men on board the ships. Yesterday, eighteen men were beheaded at the execution ground. They were accused of kidnapping. It is said that there are several more in prison who are to be starved to death.

Since my former letters were written, a plan for taking coolies to the West Indies has been made public, which promises to be conducted in a humane and honorable manner, and I look upon it as one which is to have a powerful influence upon the relations of labor and capital in the West Indies, and also in the Southern States of America. If it proves to be practicable, then a way is opened up, by which the Southern States may supply the deficiency of laborers with a class of men who are superior to the negroes, both in intellect and in their physical powers.

I will give an outline of the plan proposed by the British Government, and I have no doubt you and your readers, who take an interest in everything that concerns the suffering poor, will agree with me, that justice and humanity are manifest in every arrangement; and that, if it proves to be practicable, its influence will be felt throughout the world.

Some time since, Mr. Austin, an agent of the British Government, arrived here, and, through the British and French authorities here, an arrangement was made with the Governor General of this Province, to recognise and approve of the plan proposed; and a proclamation was issued by the Governor General, announcing the fact that a Chinese mandarin was associated with Mr. Austin in managing the business. A large hong has been rented in the Western suburbs of this city, in which Mr. Austin will reside, and where all the business will be transacted. A paper stating the terms on which coolies are taken is printed and put up in all parts of the city. I take from this paper the following outline of the proposals:

Article 1st states "that in the English West Indies there are no slaves; that all are entitled to the protection of the law; that officers are appointed to protect laborers, and that all are allowed to enjoy their own religion."

Article 2d states "that the West Indies are very much like the province of Canton in climate and productions."

Article 3d states, "those who willingly go, and who are accepted, will enter into a contract to labor for five years. Twenty dollars, or an ounce, will be handed to those who which is to be paid back. The passage money, $75, will be paid, and clothes and food for the voyage found. If the coolie labors the full term of five years, then the passage-money is not to be paid back."

Article 4th states "that the wages are fixed in the contract at $4 per month; but if at any time the coolie can get higher wages, the contract can be altered. If he chooses to return home, or go elsewhere to labor, then the passage-money must be paid back within the five years. In addition to wages, he is provided with food, a house, and small garden. In sickness, no deduction is made from wages; eight and one-half hours are the fixed time for labor each day. The rest of the time is his own. If the contract is changed, and higher wages given, then he must provide for himself."

Article 5th provides for paying a portion of the wages to parents or friends in China. If a man wishes to take his wife and children, their passage will be paid, $20 allowed the wife for cloth, and $8 for each child. These are not to be paid back. Houses will be provided for them, and free schools for the children.

Article 6th provides for sending letters back and forth without charge.

Article 7th states that those who wish to go, and are accepted, shall give their names, residence, age, &c., &c., to the managing officer, and they can then return home, or stay in the officer's hong until the ship sails."

Article 8th states that a hong for receiving coolies will be open at all times, but that certain rules for order and cleanliness must be observed. The coolies can go and come, as they choose. Two days before sailing, the English and Chinese officers will go on board the ship, and examine the accommodations, provisions, &c. The contracts will then be signed."

Article 9th states that "after going on board the ship, the coolies will not be allowed to return to the shore again."

Article 10th states "that all who wish are supplied with papers stating the proposals, and that they are circulated by the mandarins to prevent deception."

Article 11th states that "the English and Chinese officers are at all times ready to hear any complaint from any of the coolies."

As to the practicability of this scheme, I have no opinion to offer. This must be tested by time. It must have been well considered, before the British Government would authorize the arrangements which it has caused to be made.

What will be the effect on the present system of kidnapping? If the Spanish Government does not authorize a plan similar to that of the English, kidnapping must increase; for those who are willing to go, will take the better offer of the British, and then the coolie prisons in Macao, and the first-class American clippers employed by the Spaniards, must be filled with those who have been cheated or stolen from their homes. Is there not virtue enough in our rulers to save our flag from the foul stain with which it is being blighted? K.

FROM EUROPE.

Halifax, Feb. 2.—The royal mail steamship America, which left Liverpool at half P. M. of the 14th ult., and Queenstown the following day, arrived here at one o'clock this afternoon. She will be due at Boston on Saturday morning.

The European Congress.—The object of Lord Cowley's mission to London was to resume the negotiations between England and France, which were instituted by the former and interrupted by Count Walewski's opposition. The object of these negotiations was non-intervention in the affairs of Central Italy. France, adopting the same basis, is desirous that the whole of Europe should give its formal assent to the principle; with this view, Lord Cowley was sent to London to ascertain the feeling of the British Cabinet as to the advisability of addressing a collective note to the European Cabinets. In this note, an infraction of the principle of non-intervention is to be made in a *casus belli*. The British Cabinet, while expressing its readiness to support the principle of non-intervention, either at the Congress or in its communication with the foreign Powers, pointed out the impossibility of bringing Italy to without the consent of Parliament to a course of policy which might possibly involve hostilities. The feeling of the Northern Courts gave rise to some fear that Europe would not tacitly submit to so threatening an intimation, and which also implied the adoption of principles opposed to the independence of every State which possesses the right of forming alliances as it may think proper, and at its own risk and peril.

The British Cabinet having thus declined the propositions to enter into engagements having such an important bearing, the question of an early meeting of the Congress is again revived.

General News.—There was a doubtful rumor that the Emperor of Austria has invited Russia and Prussia to defend the legitimate rights of monarchs.

At the latest accounts, the Spanish army was near Tetuan—the position of the army being unchanged.

Reports are current and believed in Paris that an agreement has been made between France and England for the reciprocal import of English iron and coal and French wines.

The Paris correspondent of the *Post* reports that the Papal Nuncio has said the Pope will give up the Romagna, but retain the rest of his dominions be secured to him.

Cardinal Antonelli's reported resignation was not confirmed.

It was rumored that Garibaldi had gone to Sicily.

The London *Times* editorially criticises the financial statement of the American Government, and points out that, allowing for the youth of the Republic, its finances are, in other, there is the strongest possible analogy between the respective proceedings of England and America.

In another article, the same journal expatiates on the Mexican affairs, in connection with the President's message. It says there is not a question but what the Americans, if they so please, can march to Mexico—nor is it to be doubted that their advance would be attended with at least the temporary benefit to humanity. Saving British interest, we should look on such a proceeding with the least dissatisfaction; but if Mr. Buchanan's description of Mexico is a faithful picture, it will require far more than one campaign to convert the country from the country to the rank of an organized State.

A stormy meeting of the Great Ship Company had been held in London. A report was presented showing the prosperity of the Company, and announcing the resignation of the Board. A motion to receive the report was followed by an amendment, that before doing so, a committee of investigation be appointed. After a long and stormy debate, it was decided the question by ballot. The result of this ballot was expected to be made known on the day the America sailed. The meeting stood adjourned till the 17th.

A Captain Walker, stated to be the captain of the slaver Wanderer, and who recently arrived in Liverpool under extraordinary circumstances, was under arrest in that place, charged with having conspired with others to obtain money by false pretences. The evidence before the magistrate showed that Walker was treating for the purchase of a ship for a slave speculation.

Edmund Lane and George Hines, first and second mates of the ship Anna, of New York, were under arrest in London, charged with having murdered several colored seamen, during the voyage from Lagunas to England.

India and China.—The Calcutta mail of December 10, and the Hong Kong mail of November 27, had reached England.

The Government dispatch from Oode confirms the complete overthrow and dispersion of the remainder of the rebel army. All the leading rebels had been taken, except the Begum, and she could not hold out alone.

The silk tax was to be increased one shilling on the eighty pounds, adding nearly a million sterling to the revenue.

The Chinese were reported to be making great warlike preparations.

The Bombay telegraph of the 27th of December, via Aden, reports the campaign against the rebels in Nepaul as all over. The rebels have all surrendered, except the Begum.

It was said the Chinese had addressed a demand to Russia, to evacuate all the country of the Amoor.

The *Times*, in a leader on the Italian question, says it is now announced, almost in official language, that England and France have fully agreed to recognise and protect the Central Italian States, and it rejoices at the liberal course pursued by Napoleon.

M. Villamarina is publishing a pamphlet in which he advocates the temporal rights of the Pope.

At Vienna, it is fully believed that the Government intends, openly and actively, to interfere in Central Italy in favor of the exiled Dukes and Papal Government. The Pastoral of the Archbishop, published in the *Wiener Zeitung*, on the 11th, confirms this fear.

The *Univers* announces that the Bishop of Perigueux is about to publish a pamphlet in answer to the Papal letter to Napoleon.

London, Saturday Evening.—The funds today are firm at the closing prices of yesterday. In the share market there is scarcely a single feature of interest. The railroad share market is heavy, and prices are lower.

Paris, Saturday.—The *Pays* this evening, says: "Our information be correct, the state of affairs is daily improving, not only as regards the relations of the French Government with the Holy See, but also in reference to those of England, which are continually becoming more intimate.

The Vienna *Gazette* has published an Imperial decree, enacting that the testimony of Jews, in future, shall be regarded of the same value as that of Christians. The measure is considered preliminary to according them full civil and political rights.

The Diet of Denmark has decided, by a large majority, that the bill for the separation of Church and State shall be read a second time.

The *Independence Belge* retracts the statement that Prince Metternich had left for Vienna.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

The steamer North American arrived at Portland on Saturday, and the City of Baltimore at New York, both having sailed from Liverpool on the 18th, and Queenstown on the 19th ult.

The European Congress.—The announcement that Lord Cowley had returned to Paris was premature. He did not arrive there till the 17th. It is said, however, he had a long audience with the Emperor. A telegram on the subject says the Emperor requested Lord Cowley to declare to the English Cabinet that, although desiring an intimate understanding with England on the basis of non-intervention, it was to be understood that he always considered himself bound by the engagements of Villafranca and the treaties of Zurich.

This reserve was maintained during the last negotiations between France and Prussia. The assembling of a Congress is therefore still possible, its programme being founded on the treaties of Zurich. The Cabinet of the Tuileries has formally resumed the negotiations concerning the Congress, and has, by telegraph, informed the northern Courts of the desire of the Emperor.

Great Britain.—The two mates of the American ship Anna, previously reported under arrest upon a charge of having caused the death of six colored seamen by brutal treatment, had been brought up for examination before the magistrates at Newport, Isle of Wight. Evidence of great cruelty was adduced, but it was asserted for the defence that the men died from the effects of yellow fever, which had prevailed on board the vessel. The American Minister has given a formal notice of his jurisdiction of the court, the magistrate had to dismiss the charge. This protest was accompanied with the request that the magistrates would detain the defendants until the matter could be referred to the American consul, so that they might be remitted to their own country. Under the extradition treaty, the magistrates considered that they could not hold the accused without a formal requisition, and they were accordingly discharged. The prisoners had to be conveyed to their ship, under the protection of the police, for fear of the fury of the mob. The London *Times* has a strong editorial on the case, in which it says: "These crimes, for which the American merchant service has become justly infamous, demand the serious attention of a civilized people."

Another case of cruelty, on board the American ship Mountaineer, has resulted in the death of the victim, had undergone an investigation before the coroner in London. The jury, in their verdict, state exhaustion to have been the cause of the death, but at the same time charge the officers of the vessel with gross and cruel neglect.

France.—Napoleon has addressed a most important free-trade manifesto to Fould, Minister of State; it is dated the 5th of January, and published in the morning of the 10th.

The letter sums up the intended reforms, viz: Suppression of duty on wool and cotton, successive reduction of dues on sugar and coffee, vigorous improvement of the means of communication, improvement of the canal dues by a general lowering of transport costs, loans to be granted to agriculture and industry, considerable works of public utility, suppression of the prohibition to customs and commercial treaties with foreign Powers.

The 160,000,000 of francs remaining disposable from the last loan will be applied in three yearly credits to the execution of great public works. The Emperor concludes: "I am convinced that I shall obtain the support of the Senate and Legislative body to these reforms. I am anxious to inaugurate with them a new era of peace, and to insure its blessings to France."

The letter attracted great attention. With scarcely any exception, the Paris press applaud the object, and in England it gives great satisfaction.

Belgium.—The Belgium Government has decided on sending an expeditionary force to China, to act in concert with the Anglo-French expedition, with the view of establishing a Belgian colony in China for commercial purposes.

A royal decree authorises a loan of forty-five million francs.

Switzerland.—The Swiss Federal Council had ordered a pamphlet of Mazzini's, printed at Lugano, to be seized, and had expelled the foreigners who published the obnoxious work.

Spain and Morocco.—The division Rios of the Spanish army had landed without opposition on the banks of the river Tetuan.

Le Nord states that on the 10th of January the Spanish Ambassador had entered into the hands of the British Minister at Madrid the sum due to the British Government, about ten and a half million francs.

A Madrid telegram of the 15th announces that the Spaniards in Morocco were masters of all the positions of Cabo Legro. After having obtained a complete victory, they were commanding all the heights of the valley of Tetuan, and would be before Tetuan as soon as the artillery was able to pass.

Late advices from Mogador state that 60,000 men, the pick of the Moorish army, were encamped on the hills beyond Mogador, ready for action. The Spanish had sent to have taken in all 600 Spanish prisoners.

Italy.—The King of Sardinia was expected to visit Milan in the beginning of February.

The commissioners to trace the frontiers between Savoia and Switzerland commenced their work.

The King of Sardinia had accepted the resignation of the Ministry, and had charged Count Cavour with the formation of a new Cabinet.

It is said that great agitation prevailed in the Marches, and that Bologna was to be fortified.

Some riotous demonstrations had taken place at Parma, the mob calling out for a reduction in the price of bread, and the recall of Garibaldi. Force was required to restore order.

Prussia.—In the Chamber of Deputies, the Minister of Commerce had announced that he was about to propose the abolition of the laws against usury. The statement caused a sensation among the deputies.

Austria.—Letters from Vienna fully confirm the assertion that Austria has abandoned all idea of renewing the war in Italy.

It is stated, however, that the Cabinet of Vienna will make a protest on account of the non-fulfilment of the Villafranca agreement, relative to the restoration of the Grand Dukes, which will be forwarded to all the European Courts as well as to Paris.

The Austro-Sardinian commission for the regulation of the boundary line has already held three meetings. The Austrian customs officers have been reinforced by military, in order to avert provocation from the other side of the frontiers.

STILL LATER FROM EUROPE.

New York, Feb. 5.—The steamer Asia, with Liverpool advices of the 21st ult., three days later than the advices per steamers City of Baltimore and North American, arrived here this evening.

The steamers Arago and Glasgow had arrived out.

It is denied that the French Government intends to proceed against the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Napoleon's free-trade programme had been received very favorably in the French departments.

A commercial treaty between France and England was expected to be signed in a few days.

The following French diplomatic changes are announced: M. Barret goes from Madrid to Constantinople; the Duke Grammont goes from Rome to Madrid; and the Prince Latour Dauvergne goes to Rome.

The Paris Bourse closed firmer; rentes 69f.

The English news is unimportant.

It is said that the Ministerial reform measures are ready for the meetings of Parliament.

The Sardinian Ministry has not been officially announced. It is said that Count Cavour will certainly have the Foreign Department, and Count Panti that of War.

The Pastoral of the Archbishop of Grand Duke is said to have been discovered in Florence.

The position of affairs between Morocco and Spain is unchanged.

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The London *Herald's* Paris correspondent reiterates the previous statement, that a portion of the French Imperial Guards have received their camping equipage, and that the regiments quartered at Versailles are ready to march at a moment's notice for Italy, as their officers believe.

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Liverpool Breadstuffs Market. — Messrs. Richardson, Spence, & Co., quote: Flour is steady at 23s. @ 26s. 6d. Wheat is quiet at Tuesday's decline. Red, 9s. 6d. @ 9s. 10d.; white, 9s. 10d. @ 12s. 5d. Corn has a declining tendency. Prices are 3s. 6d. lower. Yellow, 30s. 6d. @ 31s. 3d.

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London, Saturday morning.—The produce markets are uninfluenced by the contemplated changes in the French tariff.

The Bombay mail of December 27 has arrived. The Bombay journals say the rebel force is utterly annihilated.

The London *Star* thinks that probably the commercial treaty negotiating between England and France will be signed before the delivery of the Queen's speech. The *Herald* believes the treaty is already signed, and will come into immediate operation.

It is reported that the Archbishop of Paris has resigned his seat in the Council of the Empire. His resignation is expected to give a more determined attitude to the clerical opposition to the Emperor's anti-Papal policy.

THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESS,

First Session.

Tuesday, January 31, 1860.

SENATE.

The Vice President laid before the Senate a communication from the Commissioner of Patents, made in obedience to law, showing the operations of that office during the year 1859.

Mr. Rice presented resolutions of the Legislature of Minnesota, instructing their Senators and requesting their Representatives to use their votes and influence in favor of the passage of a homestead bill; which were read, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Several other memorials and petitions were presented and referred.

Reports were made from sundry committees.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the unfinished order, being the resolution offered by Mr. Douglas, instructing the Committee on Territories to bring in a bill to protect the several States and Territories from invasions, &c.

Mr. Hunter rose and addressed the Senate at some length, and was listened to with marked attention throughout; when he had closed,

Mr. Green thought it probable that other Senators might feel inclined to address the Senate upon the subject, and he would therefore move that it lie on the table, to be called up when any Senator might choose to do so; which was agreed to.

Mr. Gwin wished to go into Executive session but a motion by Mr. Green that the Senate adjourn prevailed, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at half-past one o'clock. The galleries were again crowded to their utmost limit. A prayer was offered, and the Journal of yesterday was read.

The Clerk said the pending question was on the point of order, raised by the gentleman from Iowa, [Mr. Curtis,] in relation to the effect of the previous question.

Mr. Stanton, of Ohio, moved that there be a call of the House; which was agreed to.

The roll of the House was then called, and it was found that Messrs. Brown of Kentucky, C. B. Cochrane of New York, Kunkel of Maryland, Sickles of New York, Simms of Kentucky, and Stallworth of Alabama, were absent without being paired off.

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, moved that the House proceed to vote *viva voce* for Speaker, and upon that he called for the previous question.

Some Democratic members rose and called to the Democratic side, till all the absent members, except Messrs. Clark B. Cochrane of New York, Brown of Kentucky, and Stallworth of Alabama, had appeared in the Hall.

The motion to proceed to vote was then agreed to.

Mr. Smith, of North Carolina, I cannot find language, sir, adequate to convey to members of this body my deep sense of obligation to honorable gentlemen of various political opinions and sentiments for the honor which they have endeavored to confer upon me by placing me in that chair, and intrusting me with the high and important responsibility of presiding over the deliberations of this body. What I recollect, sir, how much of sacrifice must have been incurred, how much gentlemen have given up in the patriotic effort to concentrate the votes of this House upon a gentleman, an individual that stood upon national and properly conservative ground; and when I remember also, sir, that I, myself, with a name unknown to fame, now making my entry upon this floor for the first time, have received the honor of so large and honorable a vote as has been conferred upon me, I can only say, sir, that I shall cherish during the residue of my official term, while a member of this body, and carry with me into the shades of private life, when my public service is ended, a grateful and abiding sense of those deep obligations under which gentlemen have placed me. But, sir, without intending now, since it is not the proper occasion, to go into any matters of detail, I will here take the liberty of saying that I am satisfied that the presentation of my name longer before this body would not contribute towards the success of the wishes of those gentlemen who have so cordially and steadily sustained me. I beg leave now, sir, before another ballot is taken, to withdraw my name as a candidate before this body, relative to the restoration of the Grand Dukes, which will be forwarded to all the European Courts as well as to Paris.

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HOUSE.

The House met at half-past one o'clock. The galleries were again crowded to their utmost limit. A prayer was offered, and the Journal of yesterday was read.

The Speaker stated that the question pending when the House adjourned on Wednesday was on the resolution offered by the gentleman from New York, [Mr. Fenton.]

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, offered the following resolution; which, under the operation of the previous question, was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed on the part of the House, to join such committee as may be appointed on the part of the Senate, to wait upon the President of the United States, and notify him that a quorum of the two houses has assembled, and that Congress is ready to receive any communication which he may be pleased to make.

Messrs. Grow of Pennsylvania, Miles of South Carolina, and Etheridge of Tennessee, were appointed such committee on the part of the House.

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, moved that the House proceed to vote *viva voce* for a Clerk of the Thirty-sixth Congress, and upon that motion he called for the previous question.

After a call of the House, and some dilatory proceedings on the Democratic side, to gain time for absent members to come in, the motion was agreed to.

On motion by Mr. Cartrell, of Georgia, the roll of the House was called, when it was ascertained that several gentlemen were absent who had not been paired off.

Mr. Winslow, of North Carolina, moved that further proceedings under the call of the House be dispensed with.

Mr. Boocock, of Virginia, called for the yeas and nays on that motion; which were ordered, and the motion was agreed to—yeas 147, nays 69.

The motion proceeded to vote for a Clerk was agreed to.

Mr. Schwartz, of Pennsylvania, nominated for Clerk, John W. Forney, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia, nominated James C. Allen, of Illinois, the late Clerk.

Mr. Nelson, of Tennessee, nominated Nathaniel G. Taylor, of Tennessee.

Mr. Cobb, of Alabama, nominated David L. Dalton, of Alabama.

The House then proceeded to vote *viva voce* for a Clerk, with the following result:

For Mr. Forney	112
For Mr. Allen	77
For Mr. Taylor	23
For Mr. Dalton	8
For Mr. McKnew	1

The whole number of votes was 221; necessary for a choice, 111; and John W. Forney, of Pennsylvania, having received more than that number, (viz: 112 votes,) was declared duly elected.

Subsequently Mr. Forney appeared, received the oath of office, and entered upon the discharge of his duties.

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, moved that the House proceed to vote *viva voce* for a Sergeant-at-arms for the Thirty-sixth Congress; which motion was agreed to.

Mr. Bocock, of Virginia, nominated for Sergeant-at-arms Mr. A. J. Glossbrenner, of Pennsylvania, the present Sergeant-at-arms.

Mr. Harris, of Maryland, nominated Hon. Henry W. Hoffman, of Maryland.

The House then proceeded to vote for a Sergeant-at-arms, with the following result:

For Mr. Hoffman	114
For Mr. Glossbrenner	92
For Mr. Underwood	7

The whole number of votes was 213; necessary for a choice, 107. And Henry W. Hoffman, of Maryland, having received more than a majority of all the votes, (viz: 114 votes,) was declared duly elected.

On motion by Mr. Winslow, of North Carolina, the Speaker was authorized to appoint the standing committees of the House.

Mr. Spinney, of New York, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That there be paid, out of the contingent fund of the House, to James C. Allen, late Clerk, in addition to the salary allowed him by law, such sum as shall be equal to his salary for service performed by him from the 4th day of December, 1859, to the 3d of February, 1860.

After some debate, the resolution was rejected—yeas 76, nays 121.

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, said he proposed to move that the House adjourn, but preliminary to that he moved that when the House adjourn, it be to meet on Monday next.

Several members on the Democratic side inquired what was the object of adjourning over.

Mr. Sherman said it was to make arrangements to complete the organization.

Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, hoped they would consent to pass the Post Office bill before adjourning over.

The yeas and nays were ordered on the motion, that when the House adjourn, it be to meet on Monday, and the motion was agreed to—yeas 113, nays 97.

Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, asked unanimous consent to introduce the following bill:

A BILL making appropriations to defray the deficiency in the appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1859, and in part for the support of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1860.

[The bill appropriates $10,696,000 for the objects indicated in the title.]

After some discussion—

Mr. Phelps moved that the bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and then moved that the House adjourn; which was agreed to.

Accordingly, at twenty minutes before four o'clock, the House adjourned to Monday next.

Monday, February 6, 1860.

SENATE.

On motion of Mr. Pearce, a resolution was adopted, requesting the President of the United States, if, in his judgment, not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to the Senate copies of the instructions to and dispatches from the late and present Ministers in China, down to the period of the exchange of ratifications of the treaty of Tientsin, and also a copy of the instructions from the Department of State of February, 1857, to Mr. Parker, former Commissioner in China.

On motion of Mr. Hemphill, a resolution was adopted, directing the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads to inquire into the expediency of providing for the establishment of a semi-weekly mail between New Orleans and El Paso, Texas, via Indianola, Austin, and to give New Orleans a semi-weekly overland mail to and from San Francisco, within twenty days time for the transit.

The Vice President laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of State, transmitting, in obedience to law, a statement of the commercial relations of the United States with foreign nations for the year ending September 30, 1859.

Also, a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 23d ult., calling for information relative to persons employed by that Department whose appointments are not confirmed by the Senate, and the reason why they were appointed. The Secretary states that the appointments were made under the acts of March, 1799, and August, 1846—and gives the names of the agents—the one receiving the highest compensation being John Ross Brown, who receives $16 per day, when employed, with ten cents mileage.

Several other reports from the Executive Department were also laid before the Senate; also, the annual report of the Superintendent of Public Printing.

HOUSE.

The Speaker appointed Messrs. Grow, Miles, and Etheridge a committee, in conjunction with one to be appointed by the Senate, to wait on the President, and inform him that Congress was ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

Mr. Phelps gave notice that unanimous consent of the House to proceed to the consideration of the Post Office appropriation bill, which was read for the information of the members.

Mr. Maynard wished to modify the third section so as to provide that the contracts entered therein provided for payable to the contractors themselves, and not to their assigns, to whom they have sold their scrip at various discounts; and that the contractors accept this interest in lieu of interest on the money for the service.

Mr. Pettit objected, preferring that the bill should take the usual course.

The House, by a vote of 157 in the affirmative to 41 in the negative, gave consent to a suspension of the rules to introduce the Post Office appropriation bill.

Mr. Phelps moved an amendment to the effect that the $2,400,000, mentioned in the second section, be paid exclusively as compensation to postmasters and clerks in their official depredations, special agents, and for transportation of the mails.

After further proceedings, the House adopted Mr. Phelps's amendment, designating the purposes for which the $2,400,000 shall be paid.

The House then voted on and refused to strike out the provision for the payment of six per cent. commission to the mail contractors. The bill was then passed.

Mr. Sherman moved to proceed to the election of a Doorkeeper; which motion was agreed to.

Mr. Winslow nominated Alexander Ward, of New York.

Mr. Peyton nominated A. H. Markland.

Mr. Biggs nominated the present incumbent, Joseph L. Wright.

Messrs. Cowan nominated A. J. Larner, of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Tappan nominated George Marston, of New Hampshire.

Messrs. Biggs, Tappan, Maynard, and Hamilton, were appointed tellers.

The result was: Whole number of votes 207, necessary to a choice 104. Marston 110, Wright 57, Ward 12, Markland 16, Larner 12.

Mr. Marston was declared duly elected.

Among the notices given to-day of intentions to introduce bills were the following

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Territorial Slave Code.

SPEECH OF HON. HENRY WILSON,

OF MASSACHUSETTS,

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 25, 1860.

The Senate proceeded to consider the following resolutions, submitted by Mr. Brown on the 18th instant:

Resolved, That the Territories are the common property of all the States, and that it is the duty of the citizens of all the States to go into the Territories with every kind or description of property recognized by the Constitution of the United States, and hold under the laws of any of the States, and that it is the constitutional duty of the Territorial Legislature, wherever lodged or by whomsoever exercised, whether by the Congress or the Territorial Legislature, to enact such laws as may be found necessary to afford adequate and efficient protection of such property.

Resolved, That the Congress of the Territories be instructed to insert, in any bill they may report for the organization of any Territory, a clause declaring it to be the duty of the Territorial Legislature to enact adequate and sufficient laws for the protection of the property, of whatsoever description, within the limits of the Territory; and that, upon the failure or refusal to do so, it is the admitted duty of Congress to institute and provide such laws.

Mr. WILSON. Mr. President, when the Republic entered the family of nations, it proclaimed to kings and princes, to nobles and privileged classes, to toiling millions and low born boldmen, the equality of man. Passing now through the eighty-fourth year of national life, America presents to the gaze of nations the humiliating and saddening spectacle of a Republic which began its independent existence by the promulgation of a bill of rights as old as creation and as wide as humanity, distracted by discordant and angry discussions upon questions growing out of the bondage of four million men.

Slavery in America—our connections with it, and relations to it, the obligations these connections and relations impose on the men, as citizens of the States and of the United States—make the issues of the age, the transcendent magnitude of which command the profoundest attention of humanity. In Africa, in the jungles, the lonely dwelling, the public press and the judicial tribunal, the hall of legislation and the temple of the living God—everywhere—goes on the "irrepressible conflict" between the principle of creed of the charter of independence and the aggressive spirit of slavery; between the institutions of freedom our fathers founded and the system of human bondage which has darkened the land, casting its baleful shadows over the Republic, obscuring its lustre, and marring its symmetry and beauty.

With the present state of this democratic Republic, which commenced its career by uttering the ideas of equality and liberty that live in the throbbing hearts of the toiling masses, and nurses even the wavering hopes of hopless bondmen amid the thick gloom of ryless oppression, more than four million human beings, made in the image of God, are held in perpetual bondage. By innumerable laws, sanctioned by the combined force of public opinion, these millions are denied the rights of manhood, and degraded to the abject condition of chattelhood. To them, the hallowed relations of husband and wife, parent and child, are held not by the sacred rights of a common humanity, but by the will of masters. The laws, the customs, the public opinion, which have made these millions the victims of the glorious humanity down to the degradation of chattels, have founded and developed a privileged class, which now controls the slaveholding States. This class now controls these States, their interesting, in support of its interests, the inborn, inbred, constitutional right of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. In these States, the power of this class is overbadowing, relentless, complete.

Over the Federal Government this class, this slave power, has achieved complete dominion. The slave power has its agents in all the National Government, in all its departments, in absolute subjugation. In this Chamber, where sit the representatives of sovereign Commonwealths, that power retains unbroken sway. That power rules the Supreme Court utter its decrees, and that high tribunal obeys its imperative commands. That power holds the President in the hollow of its hand, compelling him to do what it wills, even very exists in Kansas by virtue of the Constitution; "that the master has the right to take his slave into the Territories in common with the citizen of the eleventh century, years before Granville Sharpe brought James Somerset before the King's Bench—twenty years before Lord Mansfield pronounced that immortal opinion, which reversed the joint opinion of York and Talbot, that "a slave coming into Great Britain doth not become free," and made it forever impossible for such a monstrous claim to be held in England, or consenting to slavery is a sacrilegious breach of trust." Jefferson was made Secretary of State, and he had declared that "the abolition of domestic slavery is the great object of desire;" "the whole commerce between master and slave is a perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions—the most unremitting despotism on the one part, and degrading submission on the other;" that "the statesman should be loaded with execration who, permitting one half the citizens to trample on the rights of the other, transforms those into tyrants and fixes the tyrants of the colonies and the rights of man were discussed with masterly power by the most gifted minds of America, the popular leaders in New England, Massachusetts, Virginia, Virginia, did not fail to see and to acknowledge the wrongfulness of slavery, and to denounce the slave traffic and the slavery-extending policy of the British Government, as a violation of the rights of life and of glory will bear to all coming time the amplest evidence that the men who inaugurated the Revolution, carried America from colonial dependence to independence, were men not only hostile to the slave trade, but to the perpetual existence of slavery itself.

When the first Congress assembled in 1774, the human mind in America, recovered from, baffled by the power of England, found utterance. That assemblage of illustrious men declared that "God never intended a part of the human race to hold property in the remaining part as chattels, to the thirteen British colonies, from the middle of the seventeenth century to 1776, more than three hundred thousand of the children of Africa. The men who inaugurated the Revolution with gold, soiled with the blood of these hapless bondmen. For nearly two centuries the party of the slave trade controlled the Government, and directed the policy of England. Kings and queens, lords and commons, judges, attorneys general, and bishops, all gave to the traffic in the bodies of men their persistent support. Parliament pronounced it "a trade most beneficial, advantageous to the kingdom and its colonies." Queen Anne instructed the Governor of New York and New Jersey "to give the encouragement to the Royal Adventurers, that the merchants and manufacturers clamored for the extension and protection of the African slave traffic; and when the charter of the Royal African Company expired, in 1745, the merchants of Bristol and Liverpool, from Cape Blanco to Loango St. Paul's, were thrown open to the free competition of British commerce. Under this colonial and commercial policy, the British Crown, the British nobles of men, between the coasts of Africa and the Spanish, French, and British colonies in the western world, expanded into gigantic proportions, and slavery spread and increased with such fearful rapidity, that the American colonies were startled and appalled; and "laws designed to restrict importations of slaves," says Bancroft, "are scattered along the records of colonial legislation." To check their importation, Virginia imposed a tax; but "the African Company obtained the repeal of the law." "The British Government," says Madison, "constantly checked the attempts of Virginia to put a stop to this *infernal traffic*." Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia, forbade slavery; "the merchant of the Indies and Guinea, the planter of Georgia, Sven South Carolina, for attempting to restrict the slave traffic, received the rebuke of the British Government, which steadily and relentlessly resisted all efforts to restrict importations of the inhuman traffic in the souls and bodies of men. Up to the hour of national independence, the Government of England sternly rejected all colonial restrictions upon slavery and the slave trade, and persisted in the policy of forcing that trade upon all her colonies, which were "not allowed," in the words of the Earl of Dartmouth, in 1775, "to check or discourage, by any act, a traffic so beneficial to the nation." British avarice planted slavery in America; British legislation nurtured and sustained it; and British statesmen sanctioned and guaranteed it.

In spite, however, of the avarice of the men who guided the commercial and colonial policy of England, in spite of the potent influences of the statesmen who guided the counsels of the Throne, the slave trade and slavery found sturdy opponents in England and America. In the middle of the eighteenth century, years before Granville Sharpe brought James Somerset before the King's Bench—twenty years before Lord Mansfield pronounced that immortal opinion, which reversed the joint opinion of York and Talbot, that "a slave coming into Great Britain doth not become free," and made it forever impossible for such a monstrous claim to be held in England, or consenting to slavery is a sacrilegious breach of trust." Jefferson was made Secretary of State, and he had declared that "the abolition of domestic slavery is the great object of desire;" "the whole commerce between master and slave is a perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions—the most unremitting despotism on the one part, and degrading submission on the other;" that "the statesman should be loaded with execration who, permitting one half the citizens to trample on the rights of the other, transforms those into tyrants and fixes the tyrants of the colonies and the rights of man were discussed with masterly power by the most gifted minds of America, the popular leaders in New England, Massachusetts, Virginia, Virginia, did not fail to see and to acknowledge the wrongfulness of slavery, and to denounce the slave traffic and the slavery-extending policy of the British Government, as a violation of the rights of life and of glory will bear to all coming time the amplest evidence that the men who inaugurated the Revolution, carried America from colonial dependence to independence, were men not only hostile to the slave trade, but to the perpetual existence of slavery itself.

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