

MICHIGAN LIBERTY PRESS.

PUBLISHED BY THE STATE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

"ETERNAL ENMITY TO ALL KINDS OF OPPRESSION."

TERMS, \$1.50 PER YEAR, STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME 1.

BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN: FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1848.

NUMBER 6.

Recollections of a Physician.

NO. II.—CHLORFORM.

One very pleasant, spring-like day, near the close of January, I was requested to call at No. — Place, the messenger stating that, if convenient, I might make the visit at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, as the lady who desired my attendance would be then at home. This was rather an unusual summons, as my services were generally required for persons confined within doors, if not to their beds.—It makes little difference to the physician, however, whether his patients are really sick or only afflicted with imaginary ills, but that difference, small as it is, sometimes induces a preference for practice with the latter class, as the danger of losing them is more remote, and the bill for services rendered will fill more pages and be paid with better feeling and greater punctuality. This view of the subject being likely to involve a consideration of the code of medical ethics, may not be duly appreciated by the public. I shall therefore waive its further discussion at present and proceed with the narrative.

Punctual to the hour, I rang the bell at the number designated in — Place, and was ushered into the parlor by a servant, who promised to inform the lady that Dr. B. had arrived according to her request.

During the few minutes that elapsed before my patient made her appearance, I was engaged in examining a drawing-book lying open on the table, which had been rolled to a position where the light of a front window might fall upon it. The drawings were exquisitely finished, and the colors so delicately applied that at a little distance the copy of the artist absolutely rivalled some specimens of the Polignati Cordati which rested on the leaf by its side. Two unopened letters addressed to Miss E. were lying on the table. The room was luxuriously furnished, and several fine paintings, copies from the ancient masters, hung against the wall. Presently a light step was heard approaching, and a young lady entered, remarking with a smile—

"Dr. B. I presume; I must introduce myself; Miss E. You have rather a wild patient to-day, Doctor; but no matter, you have sober ones enough, I suppose," and she invited me to be seated.

"Doctor," resumed Miss E., "I have sent for you to consult about a matter rather novel. I have a tumor situated on the left shoulder, which, within the last two months has been rapidly increasing in size, I first discovered it about four years ago; it was then merely a small prominence, but I have never, until lately, had any fears. Now I suppose an operation must be performed for its removal, and the sooner it is done the less, in all probability, I shall have to suffer."

"True," I answered, "and there will be no danger, as your general health appears to be good, and tumors located in that neighborhood are rarely malignant in character, but an examination will settle the question at once."

"I have had Dr. W., the surgeon, to see it," she replied, "and he has given his opinion that no danger and but little pain will attend the operation; but, Doctor, I did not send for you concerning that," and she smiled, evidently confused. "I am almost ashamed to tell you why I wanted your advice, but I must, even at the risk of your considering me foolish. I am afraid I cannot endure the pain, notwithstanding the assurance of Dr. W., and I wanted to have your opinion whether there would be any danger in taking the Chloroform?"

"Why, Miss E.," was my reply, astonished at the object for which I had been sent, "it is a very difficult matter for physicians to judge whether the inhalation of this powerful agent will be safe or otherwise, as its effects have in numerous instances confounded all the reasons derived a priori from an investigation of temperament, habit and condition."

"Then there may be danger you think, Doctor, in every case?"

"Yes; we cannot tell in advance what may be the result, but the presumption is that you would not experience any serious evil from its use, for the rule, which some have established is, if I mistake not, that it can be used with safety, and fatal consequences are considered as exceptions."

"But, Doctor, my case then might be classed with the exceptions; the thought of the bare possibility makes me shudder."

"You must not be alarmed so easily, Miss E.," I replied; "but my opinion candidly is, that Chloroform is a dangerous agent, and its use should be limited to cases of capital operations, or when the suffering is thought to be above human endurance, and my advice to you is frankly given, not to use it, but to make up your mind to bear the pain, which will not be very great, as the operation will be speedily performed, and you will have your senses in that trying moment unclouded."

While I was speaking, Miss E. had been walking backward and forward across the parlor. In going near the table where the book of drawings lay open, her eye caught sight of the letters, which had been left by the postman but a short time before my visit. She took up one and gazed anxiously at the superscription, and then tore it open and commenced reading, apparently forgetful of the subject of our conversation. A rich glow mantled her cheek as her eye ran over its contents.

"Forgive me, Doctor," she exclaimed, closing the letter; "my conduct must appear extremely rude, but this letter is from a friend in England who is about returning home and I was anxious to know the time. I must have the operation performed very soon, and then if I should not have courage to submit—why, Doctor, the very thought of the knife almost maddens me. I know I shall never muster fortitude to endure it;" and she showed signs of great agitation.

The conference here ended, and having received a generous fee I returned home. Miss E. was about nineteen, tall, but of slight figure, with dark eyes and hair, fine expression of countenance, manners highly polished, and mind richly cultivated. There was a charm in her conversation unusually attractive, arising from the union of a brilliant intellect with great beauty of person. I afterwards learned that she was engaged to a Mr. R., a young gentleman of fortune, who was now abroad completing his education by making the tour of Europe. The wedding was to be solemnized as soon as he returned, and the letter she had

just read contained the welcome news that he might be expected by the next steamer from Liverpool.

Four days after my visit to Miss E. I was summoned in great haste to her residence.—When I arrived I found the house in the utmost confusion; the front door was open and servants were running in every direction.

"Is this the doctor?" exclaimed the servant girl, meeting me as I entered the door; "if so, then go up stairs, for God's sake, for my young mistress is dead;" and she sobbed as if her heart would break.

I ran up stairs, and seeing a crowd around a door near at hand, made an opening and gained access to a room without much ceremony.

The first person I saw on entering was Dr. W. He appeared to be much alarmed, a thing unusual with him, as the profession are well aware.

"Dr. B.," said he, "we have singular work here. Miss E. took the Chloroform—only twenty five drops. I am afraid she is gone past recovery."

I took Miss E.'s hand, but found no pulsation. I placed my finger on her temple, where a slight wound had been made by Dr. W., in opening the temporal artery—no pulsation there. A looking-glass was procured and held before her mouth, but no vapor disturbed its surface.

Miss E. had determined on having the operation performed before Mr. R. arrived, and not having nerve sufficient to undergo the pain, she had concluded to run the hazard of inhaling the Chloroform. Dr. W., an eminent surgeon, was selected to operate, and he also advised Miss E. not to use any agent to produce insensibility, but his objections were overruled. The Chloroform was administered, the tumor removed and the dressings applied but Miss E. gave no signs of returning consciousness. Dr. W. became alarmed and requested counsel, and I was sent for, as she had informed her father, in making arrangements for the operation, that if any unpleasant circumstances transpired she wanted my attendance.

A number of females having been drawn to the spot by the news of this strange calamity, we placed the unfortunate patient in their charge, directing first the immediate use of a warm bath, then frictions with the *Tinctura Capsici*. In the mean time the house was cleared of all the rest but the physicians and those connected with the family. A crowd remained in the street opposite, which was finally dispersed by the police. The operation was performed at one o'clock, P. M., and the treatment above described was continued with but little interruption until six. Wethen ordered her to be placed in a warm bed, which being done, we again entered the chamber.

Miss E. did not wear the look of death, but of repose. There was pallidity, but not the bleached appearance attending exsanguination. The eyes were closed as in slumber. She appeared as if the powers of life had been suddenly arrested—so suddenly that no time was permitted to elapse between the excitement of health and the quietude of perfect insensibility—not time even for the least change of expression—as though the lightning's stroke had stilled but not defaced this rare specimen of earth's loveliness. The body was warm and the joints flexible, and if the breathing had not been suspended, the observer would have pronounced her in a state of quiet sleep. To us, who knew something about the laws of organic life, the illusions of appearance had no influence. We had but few doubts about the fatality of the issue; still we had doubts, and were determined not to suspend our efforts at resuscitation until palpable signs of decomposition became manifest. Dr. W. had to make some visits which could not be postponed, and I remained during the night, watching with the keenest avidity for the first sign of returning animation.

The parents of Miss E. were prostrated with grief and unable to render any assistance. I have often observed that parents are unsafe counsellors when their children are subjects of disease, and it is a well known fact that physicians cannot prescribe for their own families. The reason is obvious. Deep solicitude unfits the mind for calm inquiry and the exercise of sound discretion. Mrs. E. was naturally of a feeble constitution, and this sudden calamity was more than she could well support; she was accordingly consigned to her own apartment, where she remained a close prisoner for many weary days and nights. Mr. E. made great efforts at composure, but his suffering was most intense; during the whole of this night I could hear his restless tread in the adjoining room as he paced the floor, occasionally intermitting to inquire if any change had taken place. Josephine, the only remaining member of this afflicted family, near fourteen years of age, appeared to have been struck speechless when she was informed that Miss E. did not revive. Although naturally of a lively, talkative disposition, not a whisper now passed her lips; her eye, when in the chamber, was constantly resting on the placid features of her sister, and not a tear fell or sigh escaped to give relief to her feelings, wrought up to the highest pitch of anxiety. Like Miss E., Josephine was eminently beautiful, and her look, so wildly, feverishly anxious, illustrated most forcibly the strength of that unselfish affection existing between sisters before separation and change weaken its power.

My watch was in vain. In the morning, at eight o'clock, when Dr. W. returned, the body was in the same condition as when he left the evening previous. I now retired to take a few hours' rest leaving instructions to be called instantly if any change occurred.—I had my sleep and returned.—The curtains had been withdrawn, to admit as much light as possible, and Dr. W. was examining the countenance of Miss E.

"It may be all fancy," he remarked, as I came in, "but I thought I perceived a slight flush on her left cheek. It may be owing, however, to the direction in which the light falls on her countenance."

Upon a close examination, I too fancied that I could distinguish something like the faint penciling of nature occasionally observable on the peach, so delicate as to be almost transparent. Here there was a slight cause for hope, slight enough to be sure, but under the circumstances not to be disregarded; and Dr. W. and myself were accordingly soon engaged in comparing opinions as to the future medical

discipline. On a careful consideration of all the remedies indicated in cases of suspended animation, we agreed for the present to renew the treatment adopted on the preceding evening, and directed that every attention should be given to have the body kept in a warm state. Several competent nurses had been procured, and everything that affection prompted and wealth could furnish was almost anticipated, so great was the anxiety to have every means adopted that could furnish a hope, however slight, of ultimate success.

During the course of this day three physicians, celebrated for their skill and experience, were called in to give Dr. W. and myself the benefit of their opinions. But with regard to all who sat around this board of consultation, experience, the great teacher in relation to cases like the one before us, was wanting, and I presume the same remark would apply to every member of the Medical Faculty in this city. Accounts of extremely protracted cases of suspended vitality are often paraded in the public journals, but when the evidence on which such strange occurrences are made to rest, is sifted, little reliance can be placed upon their accuracy. Therefore, when a case like the present arises, the treatment must be a great measure empirical. So thought this highly intelligent board, and for the additional reason that the action of Chloroform is not well understood. With respect to the *modus operandi* of most of the preparations used in medicine the profession is presumed to be acquainted, and when evil effects follow their use, remedies founded upon this knowledge are pointed out. Here is a new anesthetic agent, sudden and powerful in its operation, lessening or prostrating the sensibility of the nervous system, but not always affecting the mind, staying the wheels of life but leaving the intellect free.—Whether these phenomena are always dependent upon chemical changes wrought in the blood, or whether, occasionally, upon simple exhaustion of the vital principle, are questions to be answered hereafter, when medical knowledge becomes enriched from the details of a sufficiency of post mortem examinations.

The board of consultation adjourned to meet again on the ensuing day, without recommending anything material in addition to the treatment then in practice.

The second day after the operation had now come. No change had taken place, with the exception of the disappearance of the slight blush we had noticed on the cheek. The body retained its warmth, and the countenance exhibited the same happy expression of quiet rest. At the meeting of the medical advisers it was suggested by Dr. W., and the suggestion promptly acceded to, to try the use of galvanism. A machine was procured and immediate preparations were made to use it. Aromatic wine, spirits of ammonia and other stimulents were placed near at hand, to be used if the battery had any influence in restoring vitality. When the instrument had been adjusted and Dr. W. was about to apply the wires, Josephine, who had been lingering about the room, came to the bedside and took hold of her sister's hand. All eyes were directed to the countenance of the patient, to see if there remained irritability of the muscular system sufficient to be affected by the electric current. The wires were applied, and almost instantaneously Josephine uttered a piercing cry and fell fainting to the floor.—The confusion attending this unforeseen event interrupted the experiment, and perhaps was the cause of complete failure. When Josephine had recovered and was sufficiently composed to give an account of the cause of her alarm, she stated that at the moment the wires were applied she felt a strong grasp from her sister's hand. The electric apparatus was again put in motion and continued for a long time. I held Miss E.'s hand carefully all the while, to distinguish, if possible, the least muscular movement, but all susceptibility to be affected by the electric current appeared to have been lost, and we were reluctantly compelled to abandon any further use of the instrument. Disappointed and almost disheartened, yet with another feeble ray of hope, suddenly lit up, we separated with the understanding that we should assemble at twelve o'clock precisely the next day.

Dr. W. remained with the patient, and I returned home, to recruit my wasted energies with a quiet night's rest. At eight o'clock the next morning, as I was about making a few visits to some patients whose cases had been neglected, my attention was arrested by some newsboys crying—"The Extra Sun—news by the Hibernia—more failures in London," etc. Having purchased a copy, I made my morning calls, and then proceeded to the residence of Mr. E. This was the third day, and I found on arriving that the condition of Miss E. was unchanged in the least particular. Further treatment was intermitted until twelve o'clock, when my associates were to assemble. I had been reading the extra paper, and had laid it on a table in the hall, where it appears Mr. E. found it, for I heard him remark to his daughter in the next room, "Alas! Josephine, what a meeting we shall have! The name of Mr. R. is in the list of passengers by the Hibernia, and he will be here in the course of the day."

Who was Mr. R.? Was he engaged to Miss E.—were questions that arose in my mind, as I recollected the affair of the letter, on the occasion of my first visit. If there have been love passages between these parties, the one living and full of hope, the other stricken nigh if not beyond the possibility of recovery, what fearful scenes await!

But to the consul.

One of our number recited the case of a person, who, for some capital offence, had been executed by hanging, and whose body was handed over to the surgeons, and placed upon the dissecting table. An incision made on the breast with the scalpel was followed by a slight flow of blood; the circulation was thus renewed, and life restored for a brief season. Also, of a cataleptic girl, related by the Abbe Menon, who was doomed to dissection; the first stroke of the scalpel awoke her, and she lived. He followed by suggesting the propriety of trying the knife in the case before us, as the condition of the body was favorable, and no harm could result. The majority of the board, without deciding on the proposition, concluded to delay the experiment for a day or two. No essential variation in the management was recommended, and the board broke up to meet

again on the following day, unless sooner called together by circumstances that might intervene.

Another cause of excitement had arisen before the close of this day, by the appearance, of Mr. R. I was not present when he arrived but I was informed that he came to the door in all the animation natural to a warm affection, expecting to meet his betrothed in the full possession of health and happiness. His impatient ring was answered by a servant, stationed for the purpose of preventing the alarming intelligence which was in reserve from reaching him, from any other source than through Mr. E. He was admitted and conducted in silence to the parlor, where, after a few moments, Mr. E. joined him.

Mr. R. was somewhat disturbed at the blank and mysterious looks of the servant, and when Mr. E. entered, with a countenance betokening the deepest sorrow, he became thoroughly alarmed, and anticipated in his mind the recital of some terrible calamity. But he was not prepared for the intelligence, communicated in a slow and faltering manner by Mr. E., of the living death of her he loved most on earth. If he had heard that her regard for him had cooled, and that she had transferred her love to another, or of her sudden death and burial, the shock, severe as it might be, could have been borne, and hope crushed might live again; but to learn that, in all probability, her mind, active and intelligent as ever, was imprisoned in its earthly temple, from which the pulsations of existence had departed forever—his senses for the time reeled, and it was with great difficulty that he was prevented from rushing into her room, where his uncontrolled excitement might have terminated in confirmed madness.

(CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.)

The Heart.

Oh! could we read the human heart,
Its strange mysterious depths explore,
What tongue could tell or pen impart
The riches of its hidden lore?

Safe from the world's distrustful eye,
What deep and burning feelings play,
Which e'en stern reason's power defy,
And wear the sounds of life away!

Think not beneath a smiling brow,
To always find a joyful heart;
For wit's bright glow, and reason's flow,
Too often hides a cankering dart.

The bird with bruised and broken wing,
Oft tries to mount the air again,
Among its mates to gaily sing
Its last melodious, dying strain.

The fire that lights a flashing eye,
May by a burning heart be fed,
Which in its anguished years to die,
While yet it seems to pleasure wed.

Oh! do not rashly judge the heart,
Though cold and vain it seems to be,
Nor rudely seek the veil to part,
That hides its deep, deep mystery.

The Church.

We are desirous, may we make it our study,
To say and do nothing which shall weaken,
In any way, the religious spirit of our land;
For on that we must stand, else we shall surely perish.

Yet no man looking abroad, or at home, can fail to see that the Church, in many respects, is not only falling behind our door workers, but neglecting, sadly neglecting, matters of moment—matters which will concern us all now and hereafter. Whence so many benevolent societies? Why are the Sons of Temperance, and so many benevolent institutions, called into existence? Do we not all know—must not every man admit, if the Church did its whole duty, that it would embrace necessarily all the ends which these societies propose to reach, and be, in itself, the temple of peace, temperance, benevolence of a living and true brotherhood? To stimulate its ministers and professors to this high endeavor—to make them aspire after a power which will clothe the looped raggedness of poverty and pauperism, and roll back the tide of crime that swells up, threateningly, against every household; we speak to them in our humble way, with directness and earnest anxiety.

There are thousands among us who judge religion by those who profess it. There are hundreds of thousands, who, when they see members of the Church doing, or not doing, feel as if they were privileged to act as they act. What a responsibility! How careful all religious men should be to meet it! Yet who among them bravely lives up to the standard our Saviour set, and honestly bids the world to follow it? [Ky. Examiner.]

Trust in God.

Why despond, O thou afflicted traveller,
Tossed with tempests and not comforted? Thy Saviour is nigh—his word is pledged for thy deliverance. Though the storm may last long and beat hard upon thy defenceless head—though friends forsake and wrongs oppress, and difficulties rise like mountains before thee, yet, look up and be calm; fear not, neither be dismayed, for God is still thy Friend. He will not leave thee, nor forsake thee. He sees thy tears and hears thy sighs; still trust him and give him thy whole heart, and a complete victory shall very soon be thine. Yes, this moment, if thou wilt make the surrender, thy fears shall be dissipated, thy remings shall give way to gratitude and praise, and light, and love, and joy shall fill the disconsolate heart.—[Guide to Holiness.]

There is a greatness in this life beyond all that is called greatness. All earthly seeing—all business, care, weariness, and strife—is but the clothing of a deeper want—the heaven-sent need of virtue—of the happiness whose essence virtue is.

Perform a good deed—speak a kind word—bestow a pleasant smile—and you will receive the same in return.

A dry dock has been built at Buffalo, which cost \$45,000, and will take up the largest lake craft, with ease.

The evil of grief is in the struggle against suffering. Consent to suffer, and you will not suffer at all.

Debate in the United States Senate.

PROTECTION OF PROPERTY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TUESDAY, APRIL 20,

(CONTINUED.)

I ask again, what is it that has produced this strife, called up these denunciations, excited all this invective which has been poured upon me, as if I was guilty of all the crimes in the decalogue? I call upon the Senate and the country to take notice of it. I ask, on what do gentlemen of the South rely for the protection of any institutions on which they place any value? It will be answered, upon the Constitution and the law. Well, then, if the safeguards of the Constitution are rendered inadequate to the protection of one species of property, how can it be supposed that there will be protection for any? It is because I desire to maintain in all their strength and utility the safeguards of the Constitution, that I have introduced this bill for the protection of property in this District. And here let me tell the Senator from Alabama, that he will have my full co-operation in any measure to prevent kidnapping. I shall expect him to redeem his pledge. Again: I am shocked to hear the honorable Senator from South Carolina denounce this bill as a measure calculated to repress those citizens from the expression of their just indignation.

Mr. CALHOUN. If the Senator will allow me I will explain. I said no such thing. But I will take this occasion to say, that I would just as soon argue with a maniac from Bedlam as with the Senator from New Hampshire, on this subject.

SEVERAL SENATORS. Order! Order!

Mr. CALHOUN. I do not intend to correct his statements. A man who says that the people of this District have no right in their slaves, and that it is no robbery to take their property from them, is not entitled to be regarded as in possession of his reason.

Mr. HALE. It is an extremely novel mode of terminating a controversy, by charitably throwing the mantle of mania upon the antagonist! But the honorable Senator puts words into my mouth which I never used. I did not say that owners had no property in their slaves. I said that the institution exists, but I have not given any opinion upon the point to which the Senator alluded. I have never said anything from which the sentiment which he imputes to me could be inferred. It does not become me, I know, to measure arms with the honorable Senator from South Carolina, more particularly since he has been so magnanimous as to give notice that he will not condescend to argue with me. But there is more than one man in this country, who has, whether justly or unjustly, long since arrived at the conclusion, that if I am a maniac on the subject of slavery, I am not a monomaniac, for I am not alone in my madness. But sir, I am not responsible here or elsewhere for the excitement that has followed the introduction of this subject. I intended simply to give notice of a bill calculated to meet the exigency. The honorable Senator from Florida calls upon me for proof of the necessity of this legislation, and says that no violence has been committed in this District. I do not know what the gentleman calls violence.

Mr. WESTCOTT. There has been no violence except the running away with some negroes.

Mr. HALE. Well, I believe that some hundreds of individuals assembled in front of a printing office in this city, and assailed the building with missiles, obliging the persons engaged in their usual employment to abandon their legal occupation. If that does not come up to the gentleman's definition of violence, I do not know what does. I was desirous of introducing this subject, without an appeal to any matters which might be supposed to lie behind. I believe that these matters have nothing to do with the subject under consideration. But other gentlemen have chosen to give this subject a different direction. Now, in the bill which I have all the honor to introduce, the provisions are almost identical with the law which has been in existence in many of the States, and is now on the statute book of Maryland. To its enactment here exception has been taken, and I am quite willing that the country should know the grounds on which opposition is made. If the subject is painful, it has not been made so by me. As to the threats which have been made, of bloodshed and assassination, I can only say that there have been sacrifices already, and there may be other victims, until the minds of all shall be awakened to the conviction, that the Constitution was made as well for the preservation of the freedom of discussion, as for the protection of the slave owners.

Mr. WESTCOTT. I should like to know of the Senator from New Hampshire, if he can say that any non-slaveholding State in this Union has passed a law by which, in case of the abduction of a slave by an Abolition mob, the county or town is to be made responsible for the act?

Mr. HALE. I do not know sir.

Mr. WESTCOTT. It is time enough, then, when such a law is passed to protect the property of slave owners, to talk of a law to indemnify for the destruction of property of Abolition enemies.

Mr. FOOTER. The Senator seems to suppose that I wish to decoy him to the State of Mississippi. I have attempted no such thing.—I have thought of no such thing. I have openly challenged him to present himself there or anywhere, uttering such language, and creating such an incendiary spirit as he has manifested in the presence of this honorable body, and I have said that just punishment would be inflicted upon him for his enormous criminality. I have said, farther that, if necessary, I would aid in the infliction of the punishment. My opinion is, that enlightened men would sanction that punishment. But, says the Senator, that would be assassination! I think not. I am sure that the Senator is an enemy of one of the institutions of his country—an enemy of one of the institutions of his country, which is solemnly guaranteed by the organic law of the land—and in so far, he is a lawless person.—I am sure, if he would go to the State of Mississippi, or any other slave state of this Confederacy, and utter such language, he would justly be regarded as an incendiary in heart and

in fact, and, as such, guilty of the attempt to involve the South in bloodshed, violence, and desolation; and if the arm of the law was too short, or the spirit of the law to be slumberous, I have declared that the duty of the people whose rights were thus put in danger would be, to inflict summary punishment upon the offender. But, says the Senator, victims have been made, and there are other victims ready. I am sure that he could not persuade me that he would ever be a victim. I have never deplored the death of such victims, and I never shall deplore it. Such officious intermeddling deserves its fate. I believe no good man, who is not a maniac, as the Senator from New Hampshire is apprehended to be, can have any sympathy for those who lawlessly interfere with the rights of others. He, however, will never be a victim! He is one of those gusty declaimers—a windy speaker—

Mr. CRITTENDEN. If the gentleman will allow me, I rise to a question of order. Gentlemen have evidently become excited, and I hear on all sides language that is not becoming. I call the gentleman to order for his personal reference to the Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. FOOTER. I only said, in reply to the Remarks of the Senator from New Hampshire

Mr. CRITTENDEN. I did not hear what the Senator from New Hampshire said, but the allusion of the gentleman from Mississippi I consider to be contrary to the rules of the Senate.

Mr. FOOTER. I am aware of that. But such a scene has never occurred in the Senate—such a deadly assault of the rights of the country.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Maryland. Has the Chair decided?

Mr. FOOTER. Let my words be taken down. The PRESIDING OFFICER. In the opinion of the Chair, the gentleman from Mississippi is not in order.

Mr. FOOTER. What portion of my remarks is not in order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman is aware that the question of order is not debatable.

Mr. WESTCOTT. I ask whether the words objected to are not, according to the rule, to be reduced to writing?

Mr. FOOTER. But the Senator from New Hampshire has said, that if I would visit there, I would be treated to an argument. Why, I would not argue with him! What right have they to argue on this point? It is not a matter with which they stand in the least connected. They have no rights of property of this description, and I rejoice to be able to say that a large proportion of the intelligent and patriotic people of New Hampshire do not concur in the views expressed by the Senator this morning. They take the ground that the People of the United States, the Constitution, and the Union, have guaranteed the rights of the South connected with this property, and that the people of New Hampshire have no right at all to meddle with the subject. Why, it is not a fact, that gentlemen, members of this body, amongst them the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts, whom I regret not to see in his place, are known to be more or less hostile to the institution of domestic slavery, but have never entertained the doctrine, that the Congress of the United States has any jurisdiction whatever over the subject. They have held that any attempt, directly or indirectly, to effect abolition or to encourage abolition by Congressional legislation, is at war with the spirit and letter of the Constitution.

Mr. HALE. Will the Senator allow me to inquire if he can point out a single instance in which I have made any aggression upon the rights of property in the South?

Mr. FOOTER. That is the very thing I am about to show. When the Senator from New Hampshire undertakes to assert that those Northern men who do not concur with him are "cravens," he uses language of false and scurrilous import. It is not the fact that his language will be reechoed in any respectable neighborhood in New England. His sentiments will find no response or approval in any enlightened vicinage in New England, and therefore he has no right to say that those who are faithful to the principles of the Constitution, and fail to re-echo the fierce, fanatical, and factious declarations of the Senator, are "cravens" in heart, and deficient in any of the noble sentiments which characterize high spirited republicans.

Mr. HALE. I did not use such language.

Mr. FOOTER. Did the Senator not use the word "craven"?

Mr. HALE. If the Senator will allow me, I will inform him, that when the Senator from South Carolina remarked that he supposed it was thought that the South had lost all feeling, I replied by asking if it was supposed that the North had no sensibility, that we had bowed our faces to the earth, with our backs to the sun, and submitted to the lash so long that we dare not look up!

Mr. FOOTER. The declarations of the Senator from New Hampshire just amount to this—that if he met me on the highway, and, addressing me gravely or humorously, (for he is quite a humorous personage,) should say, I design to take that horse which is now in your possession, and then announce that he wished to enter into an argument with me, as to whether I should prefer that the animal should be stolen from the stable or taken from me on the road, how could I meet such a proposition?—Why, I should say to him, either you are a maniac, or, if sane, you are a knave. And yet this very case is now before us. The Senator from New Hampshire introduces a bill obviously intended to rob the people of the District of their slaves. I will read it, and show that such is the import of the bill. I do not know anything about the paper to which reference has been made. It has been sent to me, as to other Senators, during the winter, but I always refrain from opening it. The editor of it may be an intelligent man. I have heard that he is. He is certainly an abolitionist. It may be that he has not in his paper openly avowed, as the Senator from New Hampshire seems very plainly to indicate that he has approved of this late attempt to steal the slaves from this District. But the publication of such a paper has tended to encourage such movements.

(CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.)

THE LIBERTY PRESS

EDITED BY FRANKLIN HUSSEY. BATTLE CREEK, M., MAY 19, 1848.

Liberty Nominations.

FOR PRESIDENT, JOHN P. HALE, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. FOR VICE PRESIDENT, LEICESTER KING, OF OHIO.

To our Friends and Correspondents.

Not much by way of editorial this week. We leave our columns for the insertion of some of the communications which have been unavoidably delayed. We hope our friends will bear in mind the size of our paper, and the unusual amount of important intelligence at home, and from abroad, at this peculiar time, intelligence fraught with such thrilling interest to community, that in justice to their demands, we must reserve a large proportion, of our columns for its details.

Political.

Michigan—The inconsistent course of our Senator in congress by which Cass hopes to gain Southern influence, contrasted with the independent course of Hale will have no doubt, arouse the sons of the Peninsula state from their narcotic slumber of party influence and induce them to take a decided stand, in favor of their own rights, and the advancement of the general interest. We agree with our correspondent C. G. in his suggestion of the propriety of calling a mass meeting to take measures to forward the great principle of reform. Say meet at Jackson, or any other favorable place. Will the committee take it into consideration? If Liberty men will be active and efficient, we may expect a large accession to our numbers. The whigs of our State are divided between Clay, Scott and Webster—preponderance in favor of Clay—Democrats hoist the flag for Cass, but are waiting with anxiety the result of the Baltimore convention.

New York—The Leaguers are strongly opposed to John P. Hale and have accused him of not defending his position. But we think his course in the Senate is sufficient evidence of his strict adherence to the principles and ought to be a conclusive pledge to every Liberty man. The Democratic members of New York Legislature at a late meeting passed a series of Resolutions we give the first. Resolved, That while the Democracy of New York will faithfully adhere to all the compromises of the Constitution, and maintain all the reserved rights of the States, they declare—since the crisis has arrived when that question must be met—their uncompromising hostility to the extension of slavery into territory now free, which has been or may be hereafter acquired, by any action of the Government of the United States.

Which shows that their course is decided. How they will reconcile the difficulties existing among them at the Baltimore Convention remains entirely in the dark. According to the Tribune, the Whigs favour the nomination of Clay for President—but there are exceptions in favor of Scott and Taylor.

N. H.—Although the Democrats curried the State Election yet the Liberty reform is progressing, and that State may well be proud of giving the only man who dares independently to advocate the rights of the whole American people in the United States Senate.

The Independent Democrat and Freeman has commenced its 4th volume it has done much to reform the State—Success to it.

Missouri—The Democratic Convention which nominated A. A. King for Governor forgot their was a slave State when they, in remembrance of France, passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That Missouri views with great sympathy and intense interest the efforts of the People of France to throw off the yoke of tyranny and despotism, and rear upon the crumbling ruins of monarchy a free and Republican Government; and we bid them, as we bid all the world, good speed in the cause of liberty and equal rights.

Illinois—Owen Lovejoy is holding a series of meetings in this State. He is a Liberty candidate for Congress—From his known ability, we shall look for large accession to the liberty ranks in that Section—The Democrats seem to be in as great a quandary in Illinois as New York, but the majority leans towards freedom and at various meetings have passed Resolutions against the extension of Slave territory. The whigs of Chicago go for Clay.

Maryland—The late convention at Baltimore resolved to support General Taylor for President and nominated an equal number of Whigs and Democrats for electors. They adopted an address declaring the old questions of Bank, Tariff, &c., obsolete, and that the Wilnot Proviso was the best—that the old parties are dismembered, particularly the Democratic in New York, beyond re-union. And their course shows, that they consider Taylor the only man who can draw the North over to their interests.

Wisconsin—The people have adopted the Constitution submitted to them preparatory to being admitted as a State.

The following passage from a speech of John Van Buren is spirited, and decisive, and worthy of notice, as we have no doubt the sequel will prove;

But let the Baltimore Convention force upon the North the narrow and miserable test to which some gentlemen of the South have committed themselves—let them exclude our delegates from their Convention, and banish the advocates of freedom from the list of Presidential candidates, and the members of their Convention, when the polls close in this State, will require affidavits to prove that he has been running at all.

JOHN P. HALE.—Although we have not been one of the ardent admirers of this gentleman—having considered his eligible position before the public more the result of fortuitous events than the fruit of elevated and commanding talents and statesmanship—we have rejoiced to witness the firmness and manly bearing with which he has departed himself in the U. S. Senate. Standing in a new and peculiar position, isolated from party ties and in a great measure from party sympathies, he has sustained himself and the principles which he especially represents in a manner which has secured the respect of his brother Senators and of the people at large. [Springfield (Mass.) Gaz.]

Legal Collection of Debts.

Man has always been a trading, lending, borrowing animal. He is the only being on earth that makes bargains to be fulfilled in future. The exchanges of other animals are made with reference to the present time only. The lion never leaves a part of the half-devoured carcass to a hungry comrade, to be repaid by him at a future day; nor does the dog lend his fellow a surplus bone to gnaw, on condition of receiving, in a future time of need, another bone in return.

The relation of Debtor and Creditor is founded upon this ability of making contracts for the future. In all ages, and among all nations, at all advanced in the arts of life, the relation of debtor and creditor has existed. This is as it should be. Every man should be left at liberty to make what bargains he pleases with his neighbors. But it is also true, that, in all ages, and in all nations, possessing a regular government, the whole power of society has been brought to bear in favor of the creditor to compel the debtor to fulfill his contract with him.

Among some nations of antiquity, it is supposed that the defaulting debtor became the absolute slave of the creditor. And among the Jews, the whole property of the debtor was seized by the creditor, and where that was found to be insufficient, the debtor and his whole family were sold for the benefit of the creditor, till the debt should be paid.—See the story of the man who owed 10,000 talents in the New Testament.

But among modern civilized nations, the law has restricted the creditor to the whole property of the debtor, with the privilege of putting the person of the debtor into the public prison. This seems to have been designed as an engine of torture, that through the dread of suffering the debtor might be induced to pay what he owed. But as the prospect of paying debts might in many cases be utterly hopeless, provision was made in some parts of our country that after imprisonment for a length of time, he might "swear-out."

But under the process of imprisonment, the family of the debtor, having been stripped of everything might become a charge upon the whole community. To obviate this, it was found best to exempt from the power of the creditor, some articles of indispensable necessity to the family of the debtor, as well as a small supply of the necessaries of life.

Another most important step in legislation on this subject has been the entire abolition of imprisonment for debt. This is within the memory of the present generation. Many can remember the strenuous opposition to the measure which was made, and the dolorful prophecies put forth respecting its effects.

The Person of the debtor having been thus exempted from the power of the creditor, more and more of his personal property has been exempted from liability. Many of our legislators have had a personal interest in extending the amount exempted; and they have also found that in a community where almost every man is a voter, and the great mass are not wealthy, it is popular to "do something for the poor man." Hence in our State, a supply of clothing, provisions, books, furniture, &c., has been exempted to every family; and \$250 worth of tools, stock, team, or whatever a man needs for carrying on his business, amounting in the aggregate, to about \$1,000. Besides this, the most liberal provisions have been made for the support of widows and children, in preference to the payment of creditors.

The law recently enacted allowing married women to hold property independently of their husband, and free from all liabilities for their debts, was another step diminishing the power of the creditor.

Then came the Homestead law. Every family must be some where; and if they cannot own any land, they must be driven about from place to place at the mercy of the land holders; or take refuge in the highways. In Texas, 200 acres of land are now exempted from liabilities for debt; in Michigan, 40 acres; in Connecticut, an amount not exceeding \$300 in value; and it is plain from the signs of the times, that in a few years, a homestead of some kind will be granted to the debtor in all the States.

From this brief history of legislation on the Credit System, it is evident to every person that it has been all in one direction. The power of the creditor has been steadily curtailed, and his facilities for enforcing the legal collection of his debts more and more cut short.

The question now arises, will this system of legislation be preserved, will it become stationary, or will it continue to progress in the same direction in which it has always moved?

That it will not be revised, is evident from the fact that all political power is now in the hand of the laboring part of community. It has been through their influence that laws in favor of the debtor have been enacted; and think you that they will voluntarily imprison themselves again for debt, or give up their homes and the last articles of food and clothing for their families, merely to gratify the caprices of Capitalists? Far from it. The power of making laws lies with the poor; they will not enact any which they conceive to be against their own interest; and if at any time, they err in judgment in this matter, there will be no lack of keen-eyed politicians, on the bright look-out to gain popularity for themselves by pointing out their true interest, and taking the lead in attaining it.

This system of legislation will not remain stationary where it is. It is now incomplete and unfinished. In some of its parts it is inconsistent with itself. Why exempt from execution 40 acres of land, and yet let every acre of grain or produce grow on it be liable to seizure by the creditor? How much does this encourage the owner to cultivate his land? Besides, why exempt one third or one half the property in community from liability for debt, and yet leave the remainder liable? If the creditor ought to be able to enforce his claim by law, then too much property is now exempted; if it be not best that it should be thus enforced, then all of it should be exempt. Legislation will not long remain where it is; and as it cannot go backward for the reasons already given, its forward progress is inevitable. In addition to this it may be remarked, that the vast change on this subject which has taken place within the knowledge of the present generation, gives most encouraging assurance that the work thus rapidly prosecuted to the present time, will go forward to completion with unabated speed and vigor.

It is true, as before stated, that the power of society has always been exerted to enforce payment from the debtor. But is there any sufficient reason for this? A, of his own accord, and for purposes of private gain, trusts B to the amount of \$5. He has trusted twenty other men the same amount,

for the same purposes, and received his pay. But B, the twenty first man, instead of being honest and trustworthy as A supposed, proves to be knavish, indolent or vicious, and does not pay. Why, now should the whole State of Michigan be put in requisition, and the judges be paid heavy salaries, twelve jurors be called from their work, a number of witnesses called to repeated attendance in court, and sheriffs and lawyers be employed at high rates of compensation?—and for what? Why, because A foolishly made a mistake in trusting B supposing him to be honest. This is a vast amount of machinery to put in motion to remedy A's mistake. Nor is it always effectual then. In a vast proportion of cases, the attempted collections are not made, and the expenses incurred become a partial or total loss to the community. But at the best, supposing the whole amount collected, the whole expense of collection often, not always, exceeds the aggregate sum collected. Where, then, is the transaction? Would it not be better to let every man trust every man upon his character, and when he sustained a loss of foolishly trusting another, to shoulder it without troubling the whole community with it, and become wiser for the future? It will be understood of course, that future transactions made after the abolition of collectors by law, are here spoken of. Existing contracts should be governed by existing laws.

In another paper, some reasons for making this change will be presented.

T. FOSTER.

For the Liberty Press.

As the time is fast approaching when the (quasi) freemen of Michigan, will be called upon once more to use their franchise, for election of President and Vice President of the United States. And as from the worse than Babel confusion which at present characterizes the position of the Whig and democratic parties there is peculiar encouragement for the friends of Liberty, not only to organize, but to use extra exertions in the great cause of Universal freedom and emancipation. But especially, as all Europe is in a blaze with the great subject of universal Liberty how imperatively are we of the U. States, called upon, to rid ourselves of the just reproach of longer continuing the blaze of war, for the extension of slavery?—not to say, continuing slavery itself, while almost all the Monarchical governments of the world, are taking active measures to suppress and abolish the unrighteous, inconsistent, Anti-democratic institutions.

Without intending to write a dissertation at present—with the views above expressed, I wish to throw out a suggestion for discussion—whether it will not be advisable to take early measures for holding, some time in September or October next, a Mass Convention of the Liberty Party for the State, at some central point, say at Battle Creek, Marshall, Albion or Jackson.

Let us hear from yourself and some other friends upon the subject.

C. G.

For the Liberty Press.

MAY 5th, 1848.

I recently intimated to you the purpose of noticing the Expounder's article published in your paper of the 28th April. I now fulfil that intimation; not for the mere purpose of controversy—nor to set the Expounder right with reference to the Abolitionists or the Liberty party, their purposes and principles. On this latter point you have already been sufficiently explicit. But having been led, from occasional reading, to consider that paper, not only reputable, in point of talent, but somewhat more democratic than many of the papers of his party, I deem the article deserving of notice, from the fact that the editor expresses satisfaction at those things which he predicates of your editorial, which shows I must have been mistaken in my previously formed opinion; or that I am unfortunate, in not fully understanding the Expounder's meaning. He commences by saying:

"We are glad to see that the principles of Anti-Slavery, are undergoing some modification." Now, waiving the absurdity of supposing that "principles"—Anti-Slavery, or any other—can change, or become modified—and allowing for the sake of argument, that "Anti-Slavery principles" could change or become modified—what must be the change or modification, which they must undergo, if any? Why of course they must become less Anti-Slavery, or actually pro-Slavery; less republican and democratic, and more despotic or arbitrary; For I give the Expounder credit for too much discernment as well as talent, to suppose for a moment, he will pretend that American Slavery, any more than Russian despotism, is democratic. To suppose he will take the ground that despotism over one million, is any different, as a matter of principle, from that exercised over one hundred millions.

But what is it of which the Expounder is glad? Why one of the things which seem to be a subject of rejoicing is, that he assumes the Liberty party "no longer advocate the doctrine that Congress has the power to abolish the Slave trade between the States." This then is a subject of gratulation with "The Democratic Expounder!" Were it true of the Liberty party, it should clothe the Expounder with sackcloth, and the Liberty party with shame and confusion of face. But I am forced, however reluctantly, to the conclusion, that the Expounder adopts the principle of which he seems so enamored. Let us then, very briefly examine the proposition. The clause of the U. S. Constitution on this subject is in Art. 1, Sec. 8, clause 3—"Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes."

It will at once be seen, there is not the slightest modification or restriction, or reservation, in the power granted. And until very recently, there has never been a pretence, that Congress was in any manner limited in reference to the slave trade any more than any other commerce. Nay, Congress has from the very foundation of our government, acted upon the principle, and with the unanimous consent of the nation, that the whole subject of foreign, inter-State and Indian trade and commerce united in the general Government.

Under the clause above quoted, Congress passed an act abolishing the African slave trade. Why? Because it was an inhuman foreign commerce. And I ask any man acquainted with the subject, if the horrors of the "middle passage," are more inhuman than the AMER-

CAN SLAVE TRADE? Again, Congress abolished the African slave trade because the whole system of Slavery, foreign and domestic, was anti-republican, anti-democratic, and anti-Christian. Is the American Slave trade, in any respect, less anti-republican, anti-democratic or anti-Christian, than the African? And who has ever thought of questioning the legitimate power of Congress in this matter?

But Congress has also, under the same clause regulated the inter-State slave trade. In 1820, Congress passed a law prohibiting under severe penalties, the inter-State slave trade in vessels of less than forty tons burthen. And that article is yet in force. Now, I suppose it will be somewhat difficult for the Expounder to convince himself, much less others, that if Congress may prohibit the slave trade in one, they may in all classes of vessels—if coastwise, then land-wise. And I shall not stop here to prove that if Congress have power to regulate they have the whole power over the subject. This was settled by the embargo and non-intercourse acts of 1808 and 1809. Nay, it was sternly settled in the so called "Missouri compromise." For if Congress may prohibit Slavery itself North of 36 1-2 degrees of North latitude, I suppose they may prohibit Slavery, a fortiori, the Slave trade, North of 26 1-2 degrees of North latitude. In other words North of the Gulf of Mexico.

This article, having already grown to too great dimensions, I shall be compelled to defer to a future occasion, some notice of other matters, in the Expounder's editorial. C. G.

Union School.

The Union School in our village, is every day increasing in interest and standing. It opened on the second term, the first day of May, and now numbers 184 scholars. The continued increase evinces its popularity. There are now, four Teachers employed of unquestionable ability. T. R. Harrison and lady so deservedly popular as Teachers the last term are still retained as superintendents. The evidence of the rapid progress of the pupils as exhibited at the examination, at close of last term, was satisfactory, and highly gratifying, to all present. The harmony that prevails in school, gives strong evidence of the advantages, and benefits, of that system adopted by the instructors, "that kindness is power." We would invite the patrons, and others, to visit the school and satisfy themselves of the utility and benefits resulting from this system. By this method alone, equal privileges are secured to the rich and the poor, in their advantages of Education.

We recommend to all our readers, of every age and sex, a careful perusal of the recent debates in Congress, upon the great subject of Liberty of speech, and of the press—human rights, etc. All thinking intelligent beings, have their influence, in greater or less degree.

That the ladies are equally interested in our country's good, and hold a vast deal of influence, all will admit. Though we confess we should not wish to see our fair friends at the ballot box, (a measure which we see has been recently advocated by some) we believe the influence they now possess, (were it efficiently exerted) to be, not only more becoming, but far more potent in its effects upon community. We again invite them to read, and inform themselves, not only for their own particular and individual benefit and enjoyment, but that they may be better qualified, to exert the right kind of influence over the youth of our land, as mothers, sisters, or in what ever relations they may hold to them—for upon these, may yet devolve the very heat, and burden of this "battle"—Though we hope for a speedy termination of it, securing to the rising generation, the enjoyment of our superior institutions, untrammelled, and unpolluted, by this "foul plague-spot" Slavery.

The following unmistakable preamble and resolutions were passed at the last session of the Delaware Legislature which embody the sentiments of a large majority of the citizens of this state who see too clearly the wrongs and evils of slavery to its desire extension and propagation.

We copy from the Blue Hen's Chickens, Wilmington, Delaware,

"Whereas a crisis has arrived in the public affairs of this nation, which requires the full and free expression of the people through their legal representatives; and whereas the United States is at war with a sister Republic, occasioned by the annexation of Texas, with a view to the addition of slave territory to our country, and the extension of the slave power in our Union; and whereas, in the opinion of this General Assembly, such acquisitions are hostile to the spirit of our free institutions, and contrary to sound morality: Therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware, in General Assembly met, That our Senators and Representative in Congress are hereby requested to vote against the annexation of any new territory which shall not thereafter be forever free from slavery.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Poverty may lay its chilly hand upon us and freeze up the brightest fountain of our hopes—disappointment, may meet us at every step—affliction may strike down those who are dearest to us—the foul breath may attempt to sully our fair name, and tarnish our reputation—still let us be true to ourselves.

MYSTERIOUS.—Five dead bodies have been picked up in Boston and vicinity within a week, viz—Mrs. Bullard, Joshua Marshall, a man unknown, (near the Lowell Railroad) James Murray, near the State Prison, and Adams the volunteer, in Charlestown. In no case has the certain cause of death been ascertained. In addition, the bodies of several infants have either been buried surreptitiously or found floating in the water.

President's Message—Yucatan. To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

I submit, for the consideration of Congress, several communications received at the Department of State, from Mr. Justo Sierra, Commissioner of Yucatan, and also a communication from the Governor of that State, representing the condition of extreme suffering to which their country has been reduced by an insurrection of the Indians within its limits, and asking the aid of the United States.

The communications present a case of human suffering and misery which cannot fail to excite the sympathies of all civilized nations. From these and other sources of information, it appears that the Indians of Yucatan are waging a war of extermination against the white race. In this cruel war, they spare neither age nor sex, but put to death, indiscriminately, all who fall within their power. The inhabitants, panic-stricken and destitute of arms, are flying before their savage pursuers towards the coast; and their expulsion from their country, or their extermination, would seem to be inevitable, unless they can obtain assistance from abroad.

In this condition they have, through their constituted authorities, implored the aid of this Government to save them from destruction, offering, in case this should be granted, to transfer the "dominion and sovereignty of the Peninsula" to the United States. Similar appeals for aid and protection have been made to "the Spanish and the English Governments."

Whilst it is not my purpose to recommend the adoption of any measure, with a view to the acquisition of the "dominion and sovereignty" over Yucatan, yet, according to our established policy, we could not consent to a transfer of this "dominion and sovereignty" either to Spain, Great Britain, or any other European Power. In the language of President Monroe, in his message of December, 1823, "we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety." In my annual message of December, 1845, I declared that "near a quarter of a century ago, the principle was distinctly announced to the world, in the annual message of one of my predecessors, that the American Continent, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintained, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European Power." "This principle will apply with greatly increased force, should any European Power attempt to establish any new colony in North America. In the existing circumstances of the world, the present is deemed a proper occasion to reiterate and reaffirm the principle avowed by Mr. Monroe, and to state my cordial concurrence in its wisdom and sound policy. The reassertion of this principle, especially in reference to North America, is at this day but the promulgation of a policy which no European Power should cherish the disposition to resist. Existing rights of every European nation should be respected; but it is due alike to our safety and our interests, that the efficient protection of our laws should be extended over our whole territorial limits, and that it should be distinctly announced to the world, as our settled policy, that no future European colony or dominion shall, with our consent, be planted or established on any part of the American Continent."

Our own security requires that the established policy, thus announced, should guide our conduct; and it is applies with great force to the Peninsula of Yucatan. It is situated in the Gulf of Mexico, on the North American Continent; and, from its vicinity to Cuba, to the Capes of Florida, to New Orleans, and indeed our whole south western coast, it would be dangerous to our peace and security if it should become a colony of any European nation.

We have now authentic information that, if the aid asked from the United States be not granted, such aid will probably be obtained from some European Power, which may hereafter assert a claim to "dominion and sovereignty" over Yucatan.

Our existing relations with Yucatan are of a peculiar character, as will be perceived from the note of the Secretary of State to her Commissioner, dated on the 24th of December last, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. Yucatan has never declared her independence, and we treat her as a State of the Mexican Republic. For this reason, we have never officially received her Commissioner; but, whilst this is the case, we hope, to a considerable extent, recognised her as a neutral in our war with Mexico. Whilst still considering Yucatan as a portion of Mexico, if we had troops to spare for that purpose, I would deem it proper, during the continuance of the war with Mexico, to occupy and hold military possession of her territory, and to defend the white inhabitants against the incursions of the Indians, in the same way that we have employed our troops in other States of the Mexican Republic, in our possession, in repelling the attacks of savages upon the inhabitants who have maintained their neutrality in the war.—But, unfortunately, we cannot, at present, without serious danger, withdraw our forces from other portions of the Mexican territory now in our occupation, and send them to Yucatan. All that can be done, under existing circumstances, is to employ our naval forces in the Gulf, not required at other points, to afford them relief. But it is not to be expected that any adequate protection can thus be afforded, as the operations of such naval forces must, of necessity, be confined to the coast.

I have considered it proper to communicate the information contained in the accompanying correspondence, and I submit to the wisdom of Congress to adopt such measures as, in their judgment, may be expedient to prevent Yucatan from becoming a colony of any European Power, which in no event could be permitted by the United States; and at the same time to rescue the white race from extermination or expulsion from their country.

JAMES K. POLK.

WASHINGTON April 29, 1848.

This message involves great cardinal points, and a policy intimately connected with the prosperity of our nation, and should claim universal attention. The President in the present war with Mexico, claims indemnity for a failure on the part of the Mexicans to meet, what he considers, the just demands of our Government; and urges the prosecution of vigorous measures, not altogether to secure that indemnification; but also to add California, and New Mexico, by conquest, to the United States; making the acquisition of territory the ultimate object; as the overtures in the treaty conclusively show. We call the attention of our readers to an investigation of

the policy, of the commencement, and proposed termination of the war; to show that the design of the President is, to bring under the administration of our Government, all the country between the United States, and the Pacific Ocean; as the tone of this message with reference to Yucatan, clearly demonstrates. The subject of giving relief to a suffering people should claim the deliberate and immediate attention of Congress. But with reference to his allusion to the intervention of foreign powers, our country should pause, and take into consideration, the bearing, and tendency, of measures, that may involve it in undesirable controversies.

President Polk's design seems to be, not only to extend our territorial limits as far as practicable, but to dictate to, and, should be deemed necessary, to hold dominion over, the whole of this Hemisphere. This is a high toned sentiment, and if uttered by the Executive of any other Government on this continent would be considered as an assumption not to be tolerated by us.

General Taylor's Letter.

The N. O. Pycapuey of the 27th, contains the following letter from General Taylor to Captain Albion, his brother-in-law, defining more fully than he has heretofore his position in regard to the Presidency.

BATON ROUGE, April 22d, 1848.

DEAR SIR:—My opinions have recently been so often misconceived & misrepresented, that I deem it due to myself, if not to my friends, to make a brief exposition of them upon the topics to which you have called my attention.

I have consented to the use of my name as a candidate for the Presidency. I have frankly avowed my own distrust of my fitness for that high station; but having at the solicitation of many of my countrymen, taken my position as a candidate, I do not feel at liberty to surrender that position until my friends manifest a wish that I should retire from it. I will then most gladly do so. I have my private purpose to accomplish, no party projects to build up, no enemies to punish—nothing to serve but my country.

I have been very often addressed by letters, and my opinions have been asked upon almost every question that might occur to the writers as affecting the interests of the country or their party. I have not always responded to these inquiries for various reasons.

I confess, while I have great cardinal principles which will regulate my political life, I am not sufficiently familiar with the minute details of legislation to give solemn pledges to exert my influence, if I were President to carry out this or that measure. I have no concealment. I hold no opinion which I would not readily proclaim to my assembled countrymen; but crude impressions upon matters of policy, which may be right to-day and wrong tomorrow, are, perhaps not the best test of fitness for office. One who cannot be trusted without pledges cannot be confided in merely on account of them.

I will now proceed, however to respond to your inquiries.

First—I reiterate what I have often said—I am a Whig, but not an ultra Whig. If elected I would not be the mere President of a party. I should endeavor to act independent of party domination. I should feel bound to administer the Government untrammelled by party schemes.

Second—The veto power. The power given by the Constitution to the Executive to interpose his veto, is a high conservative power; but in my opinion should never be exercised except in clear violation of Constitution, or manifest haste and want of consideration by Congress. Indeed I have thought that, for many years past, that known opinions and wishes of the Executive have exercised undue and injurious influence upon the legislative department of the Government; and for this cause I have thought our system was in danger of undergoing a great change from its true theory. The personal opinions of the individual who may happen to occupy the Executive chair, ought not to control the action of Congress upon questions of domestic policy; nor ought his objections to be interposed where questions of constitutional power have been settled by the various departments of Government and acquiesced in by the people.

Third—Upon the subject of the tariff, the currency, the improvement of our great highways, rivers, lakes and harbors, the will of the people, as expressed through their representatives in Congress, ought to be respected and carried out by the Executive.

Fourth—The Mexican war. I sincerely rejoice at the prospect of peace. My life has been devoted to arms, yet I look upon war at all times and under all circumstances as a national calamity, to be avoided if compatible with national honor. The principles of our Government as well as its true policy are opposed to the subjugation of other nations and the dismemberment of other countries by conquest. "Why should we quit our own to stand on foreign ground?" In the Mexican war our national honor has been vindicated, and in dictating terms of peace we may well afford to be forbearing and even magnanimous to our fallen foe.

These are my opinions upon the subjects referred to by you; and reports or publications, written or verbal, from any source, differing in any essential particular from what is here written, are unauthorized and untrue.

I do not know that I shall again write upon the subject of national politics. I shall engage in no schemes, no combinations, no intrigues. If the American people have not confidence in me they ought not to give me their suffrages. If they do not, you know me well enough to believe me when I declare I shall be content. I am too old a soldier to murmur against such high authority.

Z. TAYLOR.

To Capt. J. S. Allison.

Washington correspondents of the Baltimore Patriot:—

"Mr. Hale, although an abolitionist, has made himself decidedly popular as a member of Congress, not only with the members generally, but with the lookers on! He is quite a lion in Washington, and throws his more experienced, stiff, sedate, aristocratic colleague, Atherton, completely in the shade. Of the two men, every body says Mr. Hale is the democrat, the friend of the many, and Atherton the aristocrat, the friend of the few."

A large fire occurred in Philadelphia last night in Hostell and Davis timber yard.—loss 40,000 dollars, 10,000 insured. [May 17.]

