

# THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

THE INVOLABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IS THE ONLY SECURITY TO PUBLIC LIBERTY.

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## THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY

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SIGNAL OF LIBERTY: Ann Arbor, Mich.,

## POETRY.

### GOING DOWN TO JERICHO.

Travellers to Jericho

Once might pass the wounded man,  
Or might help him, as you know,

Did the good Samaritan;  
But those days are surely past!

Priests and Levites, in their pride,  
Have ordained by law, at last,

All shall pass the "other side."

Plundered, wounded, sore as then,  
Poising in the sun to day,  
Millions of our fellow men  
Lie beside the dusty way.

He who, feeling pity move,  
Sets a sufferer on "his beast,"  
Sh! himself no pity prove  
From the Levite or the priest.

Angels, in your starry height,  
Having worlds of worlds in view;  
Spirits in the world of light,  
How appears such law to you!

Prudence, in this world of ours,  
Recommends a heart of ice:  
Say, ye loving, heavenly powers,  
Is she virtue's vice?

Going down to Jericho,  
From the sufferer shall we draw,  
Lest in aiding we should go  
Counter to the Levite law!

Shall we take the coward plan,  
Never acting as we feel;  
Helping ne'er a plundered man,  
Lest the law should say, "You steal!"

Heavenly powers, if it be true,  
Help us kindly to belief,  
That to give the robbed his due,  
Is but stealing from the thief:

Tell us, if the truth be so,  
That Samaritans now ride,  
Going down to Jericho,  
On the priest and Levite side!

## COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Signal of Liberty.

TO THE THREE THOUSAND SIX  
HUNDRED AND THIRTY SIX  
CONSISTENT PRACTICAL LIB-  
ERTY MEN IN MICHIGAN:

Brethren:—

The great struggle for 1844 is  
over, and you have acquitted yourselves  
like men who have had the intelligence to  
know your duty, and the integrity,  
principle, and firmness to do it in the face  
of the most unprecedented slanders, false-  
hoods and forebodings our country ever  
witnessed against any class of our fellow  
citizens for conscience sake.

Permit us therefore to say that we do  
indeed regard you as most emphatically  
thoroughly tried men, and thus well fitted  
for the times. What can inspire mutual  
confidence among a body of men, like  
the trials and persecutions you have just  
passed through? While you continue  
like-minded, with all our heart would we  
say to you, "whether thou goest we go,  
thy people shall be our people, thy God  
our God—and where thou diest would we  
die also."

Let us remember the furnace of afflic-  
tion was once set seven times hotter than  
it was wont to be to fit its victims to ac-  
complish a great work assigned them.—  
Liberty party men at this crisis, may well  
regard themselves as suffering trials  
and persecutions for humanity and their  
country's sake. But if the Lord be for  
us, who shall long be against us and prosper?  
Who has ever trusted in Him in the  
ways of well-doing and not found it bet-  
ter ultimately than to trust to man's de-  
vices? Has He not often "confounded  
the mighty and sent their counsels head-  
long," and out of seeming weakness "per-  
fected strength?" Is it much short of mi-  
raculous, that with such odds in numbers,  
means, and various adverse influences to  
contend with, the Liberty vote in this  
State and the nation has increased TEN  
FOLD in four short years. We now

have about the same number of THOU-  
SANDS in our ranks in this State and the  
nation that we had hundreds but four  
years ago." And yet our enemies being  
judges we are all the while "dying  
away."

Who can ask for greater encourage-  
ment than this labor on, even in the  
face of persecution if need be. All es-  
sentially radical reform in the world has  
ever met with unreasonable and cruel op-  
position. If our cause in this State can  
gain 30 per cent in a storm, as it has done  
the past year, what could it not gain in  
a calm with proper effort and a reason-  
able sacrifice of time and means on the  
part of all its friends. An unjust and re-  
lentless war of extermination has been  
most fiercely waged against us because  
we would not be guilty of turning traitors  
to our own sacred principles in voting for  
a slaveholder, which principles we have  
publicly avowed for years before either of  
the proslavery parties nominated their  
slaveholding Presidential candidates for  
the campaign of 1844. And yet in defiance  
of our well known and long openly  
avowed principles these proslavery parties  
as usual, as if to tantalize our feel-  
ings set up their slaveholding candidates  
to please slaveholders, and one of these  
parties at once enters upon a special cru-  
sade upon Liberty men for conscience  
sake, carried on by as recklessly a dis-  
regard to means as ever characterized the  
crusaders in the darkest ages of barba-  
rism. Notwithstanding the most solemn  
avowal of our principles, never to vote for  
a slaveholder, and our repeated declara-  
tions that from Mr. Clay's well known  
slavery principles—his long and uniform  
public career in favor of slavery,—and  
his recent published letters on Texas, with  
the comments upon them by nearly all  
his Southern friends that they regarded  
him the "safest man of all others to bring  
about the ultimate annexation of Texas,"  
we had no more confidence whatever that  
Mr. Clay would prevent annexation than  
Mr. Polk, Mr. Tyler, or any other slave-  
holder, yet the most unparalleled tirade  
of abuse, of falsehood, slanders and for-  
geries were systematically and unceasingly  
kept up against us. Our characters were  
every where recklessly assailed, our  
motives meanly and most uncharitably  
impugned. But the present declarations  
of some who piled us alternately with  
"flattery and frowns" to vote for a slave-  
holder under the pretence of keeping Texas  
out of the Union shows how much their  
pretensions were to be relied on, and  
which they most desired, to prevent  
annexation, or to obtain our votes to ride  
into power at our expense. We now  
hear some of this class who thus abused  
and belabored us, and who were among  
the loudest when speaking for the ear of  
Liberty men, in their most solemn protes-  
tations against annexation, declaring in  
this wise, by way of wreaking their polit-  
ical vengeance upon Liberty men, "I  
hope the Polk party will now go on and  
carry out all their measures;" that is, de-  
siring of course among other things that  
they should annex Texas!!

"You Liberty men," says this reckless  
"rattle or ruin" portion of Whig aspir-  
ants, "have voted for Polk, and we intend  
now that you shall suffer the conse-  
quence," meaning, they will themselves  
go for annexation. Just as we supposed!  
"Is a poor rule that won't work both  
ways." If it be true, that by all the  
Liberty men voting for Mr. Clay he might  
have been elected, then it follows that  
if all the Clay men had voted for Mr.  
Birney he would have been elected and  
Polk and Texas and Slavery and all the  
combined projects of ALL the slavehold-  
ers for the maintenance and endless ex-  
tension of slavery and the slave power  
thus gloriously defeated. So we see that  
by this Whig logic that if those who vot-  
ed for BIRNEY voted for POLK, those  
who voted for CLAY voted for POLK, and  
in precisely the same sense. Hence by  
this Whig logic it most clearly follows  
that should Texas be annexed under Mr.  
Polk's administration, the Clay men must  
take the responsibility for their persev-  
ering "obstinacy" in refusing to vote for  
Mr. Birney. "And if, and if," said the  
Lawyer, (when the farmer's Bull gored  
his ox), "this alters the case."

But happily, this most unparalleled in-  
tolerant spirit on the part of some Whig  
leaders towards Liberty men for not vot-  
ing for their slaveholding candidate is  
confined to a few exceedingly chagrined  
political aspirants being conscious of suf-  
fering a disgraceful defeat by disgraceful  
means—a most unrighteous and wicked  
persecution of men for conscience sake.  
Had the Whigs left Liberty men alone,  
they might, and probably would have  
succeeded. For had it not been for the  
impediment created by Whig falsehoods  
and forgeries that all the Liberty men  
were going for Clay, the Liberty party  
would have drawn thousands of more  
Democrats from Polk and Texas to the

Liberty standard. So the Whig leaders  
by their most unjust course in this thing,  
have injured us, defeated themselves,  
elected Polk—and then turned in for  
Texas and "nativism!!!" In a number  
of the States such was the extensive use  
made of the deeply concerted forgeries up-  
on our candidate, on the very eve of the  
election, that the Liberty vote was not  
increased by some thousands as largely as  
it would otherwise have been, yet our  
friends are now every where confident  
that a proportionate reaction in favor of  
our cause will soon follow as a natural  
consequence, if we all continue faithful  
in presenting its just and paramount  
claims to the people. They were never  
more encouraged to persevere in their  
great work of delivering the enslaved  
millions in our country, and thus avert  
the fearfully impending destruction of the  
nation. Let us all be content to be stig-  
matized by "pro-slavery men and pro-  
slavery parties, and sects, as a "ONE  
IDEA" party, and have confidence that all  
things desirable in pecuniary matters will  
follow the glorious consummation of our  
"one great idea" of setting at Liberty  
3,000,000 of innocent people, who have  
long been suffering by this blood-guilty  
nation the most cruel and wicked bondage  
ever inflicted upon any portion of the hu-  
man race. In all fidelity to the slaves  
as well as the highest good of the nation,  
let us continue unceasingly to press home  
upon the heart and conscience of all  
classes of our fellow citizens, the Heaven-  
born, God-given right of the enslaved to  
their Liberty, and the exceeding cruelty,  
wrong and wickedness in the nation in  
withholding it from them. This hold up  
on the conscience of the American peo-  
ple—with the blessing of Divine Provi-  
dence, is our only hope for the slave or  
our country. A mere sense of our own  
pecuniary sufferings, nor even the loss  
of our own liberties, as growing out of  
slavery, by way of a righteous retribu-  
tion for our extreme hard heartedness  
and wickedness as a nation in our cruel  
enslavement of one-sixth portion of the  
people, will not alone accomplish the great  
work so desirable of universal emancipa-  
tion. In seeking nothing but the redemp-  
tion of our own lost rights and liberties  
by the slave power it may all be supreme  
selfishness in us, and be partially tempo-  
rally effected by compromising as usual  
with the human flesh-monger to AID him  
to maintain his iron grasp upon his suf-  
fering, struggling victim. The two great  
pro-slavery parties who "strike hands  
with the oppressor" by elevating slave  
holders, and extending slave territory,  
and thus strengthening the bands of the  
oppressed are continually doing this very  
deed of violence, and glory in calling  
themselves good whigs, good democrats,  
good patriots, &c. &c.

To set slaveholders to watch over the  
interests and liberties of freemen is like  
setting the "fox to guard the geese," or  
the "wolf the sheep;" as in the case of  
John Tyler. Mr. Polk will be no excep-  
tion any more than Mr. Tyler is, or any  
more than Mr. Clay would have been.—  
To completely effect the great work of  
universal emancipation in our country  
there must be gotten among the great  
body of the people a vastly greater amount  
of active, living, disinterested philan-  
thropy—a love and lively sympathy for our  
brethren in bonds. This will be created  
not so much by appeals to the people's  
pockets as to their hearts and consciences.  
While we do the one, we should by no  
means leave the other undone. The  
American people have conscience; but  
often alas! too often, it lies buried far be-  
neath their most inordinate love of party  
and pecuniary interests!

Amid loud professions of good theory,  
money and party have long been the idol  
and Gods of this nation!! It is indeed a  
task of no ordinary magnitude to remove  
this rubbish from the mass of the Ameri-  
can mind to gain access to the nobler,  
more refined, and exalted feelings of our  
nature, "justice and mercy." It should  
be the special work of the Liberty party to  
show how much higher and more sacred  
are the Heaven-born God-given rights of  
all innocent men to life, to liberty, and  
the pursuit of happiness; to themselves,  
to their wives and their children, than to  
mere "dollars and cents." Party and  
pecuniary interests by the mass of the A-  
merican people have so long been magni-  
fied and exalted above every other good  
that they have thus measurably lost sight  
of the great fundamental principles of the  
inalienable rights of man. This in truth  
is the main reason why they do under  
any circumstances consent to extend slav-  
ery and slave territory, or for one mo-  
ment tolerate it in the nation, where  
they have the clear constitutional power to  
abolish it—in the District of Columbia  
and the Territories. To the extent that  
this narrow, selfish spirit exists, the sym-  
pathy will be on the side of the oppressor  
instead of the oppressed, and every sort of

sophistry, however weak, and the most  
flimsy subterfuge will be resorted to, to  
pervert the Constitution, to promote slav-  
ery, and suppress liberty!! It is truly  
heart sickening to hear pro-slavery men  
so astonishingly pervert the constitution  
to favor the oppressor as to give slavehold-  
ers in the District of Columbia the exclu-  
sive right to perpetuate slavery and the  
slave trade there, to the end of time un-  
molested, unless that "den of thieves and  
robbers" shall themselves ask Congress to  
stop them from "thieving and robbing!!!"  
But still this sort of miserable sophistry  
seems to satisfy a purely proslavery mind  
as well as would the soundest and most  
profound argument. Mr. Polk and Mr.  
Clay, and a majority of those who have  
supported them receive this glaring pro-  
slavery falsehood with perfect complac-  
ency, just for the sake of the harmony  
of their idol parties. This is just as the  
governing slaveholders would have it, and  
their faithful party tools most obediently  
bow assent, and thus trample the Consti-  
tution beneath their own feet to build up  
the oppressor, and crush the oppressed.—  
Precious "Democracy!" "What man  
seeing this, and having human feelings,  
should not blush and hang his head to  
think himself a man?" Not a man of  
either party has yet dared to stand erect  
on the floor of Congress and boldly advo-  
cate the immediate abolition of this "sum  
of all villainies"—this bloody land-piracy  
carried on with such bold effrontery at  
the very seat of the boasted "freest gov-  
ernment in the world." Congress has  
even gagged itself ten years for fear it  
should discuss the subject—follow the dic-  
tates of humanity and break the rod of the  
oppressor there! At length, after it was  
well ascertained that the old gag rule had  
virtually become a "dead letter"—a mere  
"scare-crow"—that all the members of  
Congress, even John Quincy Adams him-  
self had avowed themselves opposed to the  
abolition of Slavery in the District, it is  
most graciously repented by a vote of 56  
democrats and 52 whigs. Wonder if the  
Whigs for this act of "abolition" won't  
denounce Liberty men as "traitors to hu-  
manity," should they ever refuse after  
this to vote for their candidate, should they  
even set up Beelzebub himself the very  
Prince of Slaveholders? It would only  
be in perfect keeping with their late con-  
duct towards us.

Whatever other principle may be set-  
tled from the result of the late campaign,  
beyond all question, what has seemed to  
some a problem is now fully solved, that  
the Liberty party instead of being a  
mere faction to be swallowed up at plea-  
sure by other larger factions, it is an  
ESTABLISHED PARTY based on eternal and  
immutable principles of human rights and  
destined itself to swallow up all other  
parties in its upward and onward course  
to a speedy and most glorious triumph.  
As the Liberty party is openly arrayed  
against all the baser passions, the sordid  
interests, as well as the proud, the haughty  
aristocratic powers of the country in  
every step it takes in its grand march to  
victory it will inevitably meet with diffi-  
culties which it must remove and with  
obstacles which it must surmount. No  
other class of men in our country there-  
fore, stands in so great need as the Lib-  
erty party men to be a reading, thinking,  
reasoning, intelligent class. The attacks  
of the enemy upon us, will, if possible be  
still more insidious and artful as we be-  
come more and more dangerous to their  
existence, and will need therefore more  
intelligence, more wisdom and skill to  
parry them off. Few if any reading,  
thinking, true Liberty men through the  
late campaign were for a moment led a-  
side from duty by all the subtle proslavery  
sophistries of either party. To such  
minds they were but as the Spider's web.  
Even truly principled Liberty men who  
do not read and think for themselves will  
be constantly liable to be deceived by the  
mere semblance, the artful counterfeit of  
Liberty principles and measures. As well  
might we distinguish genuine from coun-  
terfeit coin, without reference to detec-  
tors as genuine from spurious Liberty  
principles and measures without a Lib-  
erty paper. We would therefore most  
earnestly urge upon all Liberty men who  
do themselves duly appreciate the impor-  
tance of intelligence upon all matters that  
relate to our cause, to use all proper ef-  
forts to obtain as many subscribers as pos-  
sible for Liberty papers, and especially  
our own organ, the Signal of Liberty, of  
whose effective execution upon the ene-  
my we judge, upon the principle that  
"birds generally flutter where they are  
wounded."

Local papers have many advantages over  
foreign ones, yet the more of our most able  
and excellent Liberty papers our friends shall  
read and circulate extensively among the  
people, the more rapidly and permanently our  
cause will advance. Our lecturing has been  
borne by a few. This is not right. Our party  
at present is entirely unlike the other par-  
ties in the enjoyment of means to dissem-

inate its principles. They have their multi-  
tude of presses, their host of office-holders or  
office-expectants. If some general system  
could be introduced by which each Liberty  
man could have the privilege to contribute  
his mite, it would be a very easy matter for  
some three or four adjoining counties to unite  
and sustain a lecturer in them the year  
round. It is true our enemies tauntingly  
call such "hired missionaries." They are  
afraid of their influence. That's the rub.—  
The mere price of a peck, a half bushel, or a  
bushel of wheat from each Liberty man  
in a few neighboring counties might thus put  
in operation and sustain an efficient system  
of disseminating our principles and  
measures among the mass of the people which  
would make every true hearted Liberty man  
rejoice, the oppressed to leap for joy, and our  
beloved country when clothed in its right  
mind to "glorify."

There is not a true hearted Liberty man in  
the State who would not most cheerfully  
participate in some equal and easy plan of this  
kind if he had but the opportunity to do so.—  
It is fully believed that should a very few ef-  
ficient Liberty men at the centre of each  
county take up this subject in earnest they  
could carry it into successful and most ef-  
ficient operation by a little perseverance in  
seeking opportunities to secure the co-opera-  
tion of each and ALL the Liberty friends in  
these respective counties. Such lecturers  
could also obtain subscribers for Liberty  
papers and circulate books and tracts among  
the people to our cause. Such is the zeal of  
some of our Whig friends that they are now  
actually proposing to make up a four year's  
Presidential salary, \$100,000, to Henry Clay  
by \$1,000 subscriptions. Such a sum well ex-  
pended by LIBERTY MEN would probably de-  
liver by the blessing of a kind Providence  
3,000,000 of slaves from bondage and save  
the nation from the dreadful scourge of the  
CLAYS, the POLKS, the CALHOUNS, the Mc-  
DUFFIES and all other slaveholding oppressors  
of their race, and speedily make our country  
in fact, what it is in name, "a home for the  
free, an asylum for the oppressed."

Let us, one and all, Liberty men in Michi-  
gan, commence the new year, 1845, by enter-  
ing simultaneously and earnestly in our respec-  
tive towns upon a most thorough and ef-  
ficient town organization, preparatory to our  
approaching town meetings, so that we may  
then not only bring our full strength to the  
polls, but along with it a STROVE REINFORCE-  
MENT. IT CAN BE DONE. "WARREN TIERNEY  
IS A WILL THERE IS A WAY!!" Let us all hold  
a weekly town and school district Liberty  
meetings from this time to the time of our  
town meetings. Let us make our town Lib-  
erty nominations at least four weeks previous  
to the town meetings, to give us ample time  
to canvass our towns. Volunteer Lecturers  
in the towns will do great good to our  
cause. Let each town see what percentage it  
can gain on its Presidential vote. Efficient  
TOWN ORGANIZATIONS, and thoroughly and  
exclusively supported Liberty town nominations  
are, in all cases, just as indispensable to the  
prosperity and growth of the Liberty party in  
the AGONIZING AS IS the planting and prun-  
ing of nurseries to the existence of large and  
fruitful orchards. Let every Liberty man in  
his town still nobly persevere in patience in  
voting in all cases for "humanity's sake" struc-  
turally upon his principles, and the time is nigh  
when he will no longer have made the "but of  
ridicule" by the PRO-SLAVERY AUSTROCRACY,  
the shallow dandy, or by men of the "baser  
sort."

It is hoped the Liberty men will by no means  
fail to pour in their petitions to the Legisla-  
ture of this State to have that invidious and  
anti-democratic term "whites" stricken from  
our Statute Book which now so wrongfully  
deprives some of our most industrious and  
respectable inhabitants from a representa-  
tion while they have long been subject to  
TAXATION!!

Our Legislature should also be petitioned  
to pass resolutions against the Annexation of  
Texas. Congress should also be petitioned  
to vote against Annexation whenever that  
subject shall come before that body. They  
will have great effect. Let us do our duty,  
and those who refuse to sign petitions, and our  
public servants who refuse rightfully to act  
upon them, let the responsibility rest on their  
heads and not on ours. We are aware that  
you will be contemptuously spurned away by  
some who were once bold against annexation,  
because you did not vote for Henry Clay.—  
But let us mark well that if such men were  
ever honest in opposing annexation it is no  
shadow of a reason why they should not con-  
tinue to oppose it because you could not see  
Henry Clay in the same light that they did.  
What has become of their late alarm for the  
dreadful consequences of annexation? Some  
will tell you it will do no good to petition a  
"docofoco legislature" or a "Polk Congress" on  
that subject.

But let us bear in mind that these men may  
soon return to a constantly changing north-  
ern constituency for a re-election!! They will  
then be the people's votes to re-elect them. If  
the state of New York turned the election in  
favor of the Democratic party, this party will  
remember as well it may, this electoral vote  
was determined not by a majority but by a  
minority of the voters of that State! Will such  
a party holding its existence by so frail and  
uncertain a tenure, hazard its future being by  
a wanton disregard of the wishes of the ma-  
jority of the people, on whose will its exten-  
dence must depend? Never! Try it thor-  
oughly and see.

Only let that voice of remonstrance which  
before election was professedly against annex-  
ation be now heard in thunder tones by the  
people in the State Legislatures and in Con-  
gress against this most infamous slaveholding  
scheme, as Mr. Webster has well said "for

the everlasting enslavement of the African  
race," and depend upon it this voice of the  
people will not be unheeded. It would seem  
that consistency alone, to say nothing of pa-  
triotism and philanthropy, would most im-  
piously require that all who were ever sin-  
cerely opposed to this dark and most wicked  
slaveholding project, should most impor-  
tantly continue their warning voice of  
remonstrance in all possible ways to the very  
last. Because the whigs and democrats  
would not vote with us for Mr. Birney to  
effectually veto this vast and corrupt scheme  
of fraud upon the slave and the liberties of us  
all, let us Liberty men not be so foolish and  
so wicked just to show our resentment, either  
to remain passive, or to join this wholesale  
crusade against Liberty and humanity.—  
Leave this for others if they will do it!

In all our efforts let us keep prominently  
before the people the astounding fact that the  
nation has long been governed, as with a rod  
of iron, by a knot of slaveholders (voting for  
3,000,000 of slaves) comprising but one sixth  
part of the people of the nation; that the  
mass of the people both north and south are in  
fact, but the mere dependant party serfs of  
this slaveholding oligarchy.

We rejoice to see all our Liberty friends  
utterly opposed to the narrow sectarian move-  
ment of Native Americanism, growing out of  
a faction, by way of resentment, of the de-  
feated party. They regard it, with the slave-  
holding Archer, at its head but as an addition-  
al form of pro-slaveryism to introduce a new  
and dividing question to turn the eyes  
of the mass of the people from behold-  
ing their own degradation and vassalage un-  
der the slave power. This party will with-  
out any doubt be a most faithful ally to the  
slave power of the nation. Its very spirit is  
that of pro-slavery in a more than usually  
plausible form. The same liberal and nar-  
row spirit in men that would disfranchise for-  
eigners because a majority of them happened  
to belong to an opposing party, would also  
disfranchise abolitionists upon the same purely  
selfish and most liberal principle, if they had  
the power to do it. It is a sort of desperate  
resort to play upon prejudice, and mortified  
feelings of resentment for defeat. It may be  
somewhat in the way of the Liberty party,  
as it is designed to be, but it will by no means  
be sustained by any considerable portion of  
the American people. Amid all these pro-  
slavery manoeuvres our cause, as usual, is a  
straight forward and direct one against slav-  
ery and the slave power, the great paramount  
political evil and curse and danger of the na-  
tion.

The recent afflictive and sudden death of  
Thomas Morris, our honored nominee for the  
Vice Presidency, forcibly reminds us that we  
should be up and doing, and that what our  
hands find to do, do it with our might.

In all our prayers to the God of the oppres-  
sed, let us never forget that American slavery,  
whose "tender mercies are cruelly," now  
holds in the voracious jaws of her pirate cells,  
for obeying the dictates of God given human-  
ity,—our beloved Torrey, Walker, Lane,  
Thompson, Burr, Wort, Bush, Fairbanks, and  
the amiable, accomplished and devoted Miss  
Webster.

While we would most earnestly urge that  
all the old soldiers for Liberty would immedi-  
ately perfect all their own County, town and  
School District organizations, to enter upon  
the campaign of 1844 with renewed activity  
and vigor—from the suggestion of a consid-  
erable number of young gentlemen, we would  
also recommend to all the young men in the  
State, from the age of 18 to 26 or 8 who are  
friendly to the Liberty party, to send up a  
special delegation to Jackson at the time of  
the Anti-Slavery Anniversary, to organize a  
Young men's State Liberty Association to be  
efficiently carried out by them in the forma-  
tion of auxiliary kindred associations, in every  
neighborhood where but even "2 or 3" young  
men of the "true LIBERTY STAMP" can be  
found to form a nucleus. Young men for  
war, &c.

Let them fondly and honorably vie with  
the older soldiers in rolling on the "LIBERTY  
BALL." As old men are fast passing off the  
stage, young men must fill their places. Let  
them be early and thoroughly inured to the  
responsibility. 50,000 men are minors we  
hope and pray will nobly support the Liberty  
ticket in 1848. There is talent among the  
young men of our land which such organiza-  
tions would elicit for the good of Humanity  
and our country.

Mr. Birney has written us that should his  
health permit he shall be at our annual meet-  
ing at Jackson, on the first Tuesday in Feb-  
ruary. Our friend Bibb, the celebrated fugi-  
tive slave, as well as many other speakers are  
also expected, and we look for the largest and  
most spirited Liberty gathering ever before  
held in the State.

Our friends in Jackson, will make ample  
provision to receive you. Pour in then, ye  
invincible foes to slavery, in large numbers,  
from all the counties and towns in the state  
and show that cold, not storm, nor distance,  
does not deter you, any more than slanders,  
falsehoods and forgeries.

Your fellow laborers,  
S. B. TREADWELL,  
A. L. PORTER,  
N. W. THOMAS,  
L. WILCOX,  
J. M. DIMOND,  
Liberty State Central Committee.  
Jan. 1, 1845.

Extraneous.—A Mrs. Barber, of Peters-  
ville, Maryland, about eighteen months ago,  
was safely delivered of three fine children,  
and the same lady last month presented her  
husband with four healthy children at a birth.  
Seven children in eighteen months!

For the Signal of Liberty:  
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.  
ANN ARBOR, Dec. 30, 1844.  
Messrs. Editors:—In the Signal Dec. 9th,  
I discovered a communication upon the sub-  
ject of capital punishment, from a stranger to  
me. The cause that called forth this article  
into being, was a petition that you published  
calling upon the Legislature to abolish this  
legalized system of murder. I feel grateful  
for the favor you granted in giving publicity  
to the petition. And, as your correspondent  
desires that his "strictures" should be cir-  
culated, and sent up to the Legislature: so  
I wish to have the petition, and this commu-  
nication to be its company. But, gents, it  
will be a little "webit" of a tax upon you; and  
the Legislature, to attend to our cogitations:  
But to the "strictures!"

1. It is much easier friend Marsh, to cry  
out infidelity than it is to prove a position  
that an opposer may take upon any point to be  
such. This is a very convenient way, how-  
ever to excite prejudice and sympathy, when  
one is wanting for argument. And, any su-  
perficial observer, will discover that you ac-  
tually need to bring their assistance to your  
aid. You say, "the author of the petition  
may not be an infidel." To relieve your mind  
upon this point, I inform you that he is not.  
Yet the course which you take is unequalled.  
An attempt upon your part is made to make  
me out as such. The great golden rule is,  
"be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil  
with good." Now I would ask, how much  
good hanging must we have, to overcome the  
evil of committing murder? I fully con-  
cur with the Editors, that the Bible does not ma-  
terially assist either side. Or that the Crea-  
tor of the Universe, has been instrumental in  
making all the laws that ever existed upon  
the shores of time among all the nations of  
the earth. For instance, I do not believe that  
a "God of love" had any thing to do with  
the Legislatures of the South in making laws,  
to oppress and keep in perpetual bondage the  
colored population. No. Charge not this  
unholy crime to the God of Heaven. Can it  
be among the possibilities that the institution  
of southern slavery, and all the laws pertaining  
to it, is "a complete Bible institution?" Suppose  
all Legislative bodies from time immemorial  
down to the present had made laws in re-  
lation to crime exactly the opposite to what  
they have, would those laws be of God? If  
so, then if the Legislature of Michigan should  
abolish capital punishment, and substitute some  
other penalty, the law thus made, would be of  
God, according to the "strictures" of friend  
Marsh. This mode of reasoning, would sanction  
all the laws that finite men might make,  
and call them "complete Bible institutions."—  
And what would be a "Bible institution" in  
one country or State, would be exactly the  
opposite in another. And what would be a  
"Bible institution" to-day, might have no in-  
stitution to-morrow. This rigid and sort of  
a way to interpret the Bible will, "I believe"  
establish "infidelity." The many circumstances  
under which the Christians at Rome were  
placed called for a different expression from the  
Apostle, than it would under other ones.—  
But, suppose the Apostle, and the Church at  
Rome, had petitioned to the rulers, to abolish  
some of their oppressive laws, would such an  
act, found their design upon "infidelity?"

The bare-faced assertion, that a ruler, "at  
the peril of his soul, must need the consequences  
in the world to come," for the violation of  
principles, needs proof. For one, I have this  
yet to learn. But this manner of reasoning  
is a popular way of begging the question. I  
hope that this grave, and saint like-severe-  
ness of a doctrine will find its way up to the  
Legislature." With what awe, and pro-  
found solemnity they will be struck, when  
they eye meets this awful prediction! Con-  
fident, I am, that they will begin to think,  
that it is a voice from Mount Sinai!

It is perfectly proper that people should  
be subject to the laws under which they live,  
and should be taught to obey them. Yet this  
does not prohibit them in sending a petition  
to the rulers.

2. It is readily granted that God is the prop-  
er being who holds power. And he is the  
only one who can give, and the true power to  
take life. He has not given the right to  
man, to take his own life. And if he has not  
given this right to man, can an association of  
men have such a right. Every suicide com-  
mitted by a sane mind, is a direct violation of  
the command of God, "Thou shalt not kill."  
God, is the only being, who has the right to  
fix the termination of man's existence. Then,  
if man in his individual capacity, has no right,  
or portion of a right, to put an end to his own  
life, or the life of others, it irresistibly follows  
that this right cannot justly be delegated to an  
associated body. For an association, can pos-  
sess no greater amount of rights in a associated  
capacity, than that which belongs to all, in  
their individual capacity.

The people have no right to meddle with  
that which an individual, has no right to in-  
terfere. The right which we possess as in-  
dividuals, may be delegated to the whole.—  
But, it is utterly impossible for us to give

when he had power to destroy the lives of his unfeeling murderers? No. "Farther" for give them for they know what they do," was the principle which flowed from the Saviour of all men.

It is a fact that needs no proof friend Marsb, that innocent persons have been torn from their homes and friends; and executed by the unjust sentence of a sanguine law. But, to this you answer, "it is a fault of the Court, not the law. This does not help your position in the least. What governs the Court? If the laws do not? And while the Court is liable to be deceived, the law should not be so severe as to remove all power out of the hands of the Court. In the case of capital punishment, if an innocent person is legally murdered, and afterwards his innocence is brought to light, the Court, law and all the powers of earth, cannot restore life to the dead. Imagine yourself in this situation, or a dear friend. How poignant must be the anguish of bereaved parents and other relatives, when knowing that a friend has been taken from their fond embrace, by an unjust law, growing out of a rigid and severe law!

"Murder is such a fearful crime that it must not be punished." Sir, you must have known better than to make such a statement. For none of the advocates of the abolition of capital punishment have ever contended, that the criminal "must not be punished." 4. You seem to take issue upon all the positions, taken in the petitions. And one would judge by reading your article, that you were wholly under the influence of the faculties of Distrustfulness and Combattiveness, with a little Caution. You say, you do not believe that reformation and happiness should be the main objects in all punishments, and say you "would not sign the petition, if this were the only difficulty." What are we to understand by this? Is it, that if punishments reformed and made all criminals happy, you would not sign the petition? and oppose, and do all you could to defeat the making of such a law? If so, for one I do not envy your disposition, or the principles by which you are governed.

"Now I say that the main object of punishment in every case is to sustain the law, and to reform the character of the offender. His reformation is seldom, if ever, a result of human or divine punishment, and never is the main object of government in punishing, excepting in parental Government. The object of punishment in every case, whether inflicted by God or man, is to enforce the law, and make the subjects fear to break it."

If the reformation of the offender is never taken into consideration; when punishments are inflicted, then, they amount to revenge, and are vindictive. You declare that parental government, punishes for the purpose of reforming; but this does not result from human or divine punishments. How do you know that reformation does not result from divine punishment? And if it does not result from human punishment, it may be among the possibilities, that the government is defective.

"Those that break the law must be made examples to deter others from breaking it." The salutary effect produced by witnessing an exhibition of lawful murder arises from the fear of subjecting themselves to the same should they be detected. But this fear arises from selfishness, and the chances of escape produces in them that degree of hope, that the effect on their minds is nothing. They imagine that they have discovered the weakness of others, and believe that they shall profit by the discoveries, which they have made. Their fear arising from selfishness, they calculate to manage in such a way, and take such measures that they will not be discovered.

But I will admit for the sake of the argument, all you contend for. That Capital punishment is necessary for an example to others; and if this is a fact by carrying out the principle, we come to conclusions to which every Christian, yes every person who is possessed with one particle of sympathy, will revolt with horror. Ancient and barbarous modes of inflicting punishments should be revived. Curling flames should be seen slowly ascending to the clouds, and limb after limb should be consumed, while the body remained untouched, by the devouring flame, until at last the victim yields up life, in the utmost agony. Or perhaps some still more horrid mode of death might be invented; by taking a lesson from the Savages of the Western wilds.

"The retraining of offenders is not contemplated as a principle in fixing the penalty of a law." This is another assertion of yours. Shall we believe you or the Apostle when he says "no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them who are exercised thereby."

How can the peaceable fruit of righteousness be enjoyed afterwards by the one who is chastised, if his life has been taken? The attempt that you made, to bring into dispute a large class of Christians, called Universalists, by charging upon them the crime of attempting to set aside the most important portion of the laws of God and man, is wholly unfounded. If you know the truth about that denomination, you know you stated that which is untrue. If you do not know, then, you should be careful not to make such a declaration.

A discussion of that doctrine does not properly belong here. But in a proper place, and at a proper time, you can have an opportunity to investigate that subject, with the writer. With feelings of respect I subscribe myself affectionately thine, JAMES BILLINGS.

The Vatican.—The Vatican, a magnificent palace, is said to consist of seven thousand rooms, and is situated on an eminence, one of the seven hills on which ancient Rome was built. The parts most admired are the grand staircase, the Pope's apartments, and, above all, the Vatican library, so beautiful a fabric, that it is said it will admit of no improvement, and also the richest in the world, both in printed books and in manuscripts.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

In consequence of the extreme length of Governor Barry's Message we shall be unable to present it to our readers entire. It is believed however, that the following extracts will be sufficient for all practical purposes. After some remarks respecting an amendment of the Constitution changing the time of holding the general election—the enumeration of the inhabitants of the State &c, he remarks as follows:

"There is a general repugnance among our citizens to the performance of military duty and to subjecting themselves to the strictures of military discipline, when patriotism does not seem to require such a sacrifice of time and individual comfort. The laws now in force on this subject are not in accordance with public sentiment and their execution can not well be enforced. An entire revision is respectfully recommended.

Among the alterations to be made I would suggest as worthy of consideration whether all musters of the militia in time of peace, for the purpose of improvement in military science, may not with propriety be abolished. The knowledge in that manner communicated, I am constrained to believe, is limited and inconsiderable, while the evils, resulting from such assemblies to the morals of the people, more than counterbalance any public good that can be expected from their continuance. It is believed that an organization compatible with the Constitution, dispensing with such musters, may be effected, which will be less burdensome and at the same time, in case of need, equally efficient. The formation of volunteer companies and battalions should also be encouraged, by exempting their members from some portion of the public duties devolving upon citizens of the State, or in such other manner as you may deem equitable and just.

While the public arms that have been already issued are, doubtless, in most cases, safe from damage or loss in the care of the volunteer companies with whom they are deposited for keeping and use, yet it seems to me that, at least for future issues, some additional guaranty should be required for their safe return when demanded by proper authority. The reports of the Adjutant General and of the Quarter Master General, with the tables annexed thereto, will acquaint you with the progress made in the organization of the militia and with the disposition of the public arms. The measures recommended by those officers are, in the main, judicious and such as seem required by the service. The whole number of the militia is 59,633, comprising nine divisions and forty-five regiments.

During the last fiscal year the amount received into the treasury to the credit of the common school interest fund, being the revenue of the common school fund for that year, was \$20,923.41, and during the same period \$28,076.06 were distributed in accordance with existing provisions of law for support of schools. The revenue of the University fund the last year was \$9,765.52. In accordance with the provisions of "an act authorizing the receipt of obligations of this State in payment of University lands" approved February 23, 1844, and of "an act for the relief of the University of Michigan" approved March 11, 1844, the indebtedness of the University, on account of the money borrowed for its use, is reduced to \$60,787.52. This diminution of its debt will greatly relieve the institution from its previous embarrassments.

I am not aware that any legislative action is expected or required at the present session essentially altering the system of education now existing in the State. If any change be deemed necessary, it is believed that it should be restricted to the management of the funds devoted to that purpose. The strictest accountability should be required of all in any way entrusted with the sale of school and University lands or with the investment of their proceeds. Losses in some instances, have already been sustained and the utmost caution should be observed to prevent their recurrence.

The number of students in the University is about fifty, and the number in its branches, though varying at different periods of the year, exceeds one hundred and fifty. The number of children in the State, between the age of four and eighteen years, reported to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, is 30,475, and the number taught in common schools 70,227. The low standard of the qualification of teachers, in these primary institutions, is found to be one of the greatest impediments to the advancement of education. The interest, however, that seems recently awakened, and the increased attention that is every where paid to the subject, will, it is believed, correct this evil.

The banks yet remaining have, as the price of their existence, continued specie payments during the year, and what is equally gratifying and extraordinary in the history of our State for several years, the public have not suffered loss by bank failures or by the depreciation of bank paper. The losses, however, sustained in former years, as well by individuals as by the State itself, afford a sufficient warning against hasty and ill advised legislation on the subject of banks and against a multiplication of their number.

The States are interdicted by the federal Constitution from coining money, emitting bills of credit, and from making any thing but gold and silver coin a tender in the payment of debts. This wise and salutary provision embraces the whole subject of currency, and was doubtless intended to secure to the United States a circulating medium, consisting of the precious metals, to the exclusion of paper in every form.

The utter failure of bank paper to give that aid to the business of the country which its advocates claim to be its province to afford, aside from all other considerations, furnishes a sufficient reason, against the increase of banks. To bank issues as a measure of relief, recourse has so often been had without success, that confidence in their efficacy has long since been destroyed.

The field work of the Geological and Topographical Survey of the Lower Peninsula of the State has been brought to a close, and much has been done towards preparing the final report upon this portion of the work.—The engraving of the illustrations, necessary to accompany the volumes when published, has been in progress during most of the year, but further time will be required for its completion.

In consequence of the deficiency of means required to finish the surveys of the Upper Peninsula, with the same minuteness that they had been done in the Lower, the State Geologist had determined, at one time, to make the final report upon that part of the work in a more general manner, but during the past year such a connection of these surveys has been made with the United States lineal surveys as will insure, without expense to the State, their completion in the most perfect manner. By this arrangement the General Government lends its aid in perfecting our geological surveys.

The number of prisoners in the State Prison at the end of the fiscal year, October 31, 1843, was 94. During the year terminating October 31, 1844, 61 convicts were received, and during the same period, 25 were discharged by expiration of sentence, 2 were pardoned, 1 escaped and 4 died, leaving an increase of 23 in that time.

The expenditures for the payment of guards, the purchase of rations, wood, clothing, hospital stores and other like necessary articles, amount in the aggregate, to \$9,678 31. For the payment of this sum \$9,000 have been drawn from the State Treasury, and \$216 66 received from other sources, leaving a balance due the agent at the time of making his report of \$456 65. The expenses of this department have increased \$254 22 during the last year by reason of the loss of materials by fire in 1843, and the increase of prisoners.

A large portion of the convicts are hired by contractors, who carry on in the prison various branches of mechanical industry.—The amount received to the use of the State for the services of those so employed the last year exceeds \$5,000, and would probably have been much greater but for the fire mentioned, which destroyed the workshops and materials for use. The amount received from this source including \$300 appropriated at the last session has been expended in the further construction of the prison buildings, yard-wall, and workshops. The estimated revenue from the same source for the ensuing year is \$6,500, and is deemed sufficient to defray the expenses of the improvements necessary to be made during that period.

That portion of the prisoners, not hired by contractors, has been employed under direction of the keepers, in various occupations; but mostly at work upon the improvements in progress.

In the above enumeration of expenses, the salaries of the officers of the prison and many other items of expenditure, are not included. The whole amount for all purposes of the prison, drawn from the Treasury the last year, is \$15,715.34.

Among the prisoners are two females, who are reported to be in the county jail, for want of proper apartments in the prison. Complaints have been made of the practice prevailing upon our frontier settlements, of selling spirituous liquors and other intoxicating drinks to the Indians. Existing enactments, prohibiting the traffic, are represented as being insufficient for that purpose, and serious difficulties are apprehended from its further continuance. The subject seems to require investigation, and will, I doubt not, receive such attention as you may find its importance demands.

The report of the Commissioner of the State Land Office will inform you, in detail, of the business transacted in that department the past year.

Of the 500,000 acres of land granted by act of Congress, passed September 4, 1841, 45,429 97 100 acres were sold in the year 1843, and 30,840 88 100 acres in 1844, making in all 126,270 83 100 acres; and the whole sum received in payment for the same, was \$157,891.07, mostly in State Warrants issued for purposes of internal improvements. The further quantity of 79,564 52 100 acres has been specifically appropriated, for part of which Land Warrants have already been drawn, and for the remainder such Warrants will be issued during the present year. The residue of the grant, being 294,168 75 100 acres, still remains the property of the State, subject to the disposal of the Legislature, liable however, at any time, without further legislation to be taken at its minimum price for payment of all outstanding Warrants, for whatever purpose issued, if their holders so elect, and, after the first day of July next, also liable to be taken in payment of the bonds issued for interest under the act to liquidate the public debt, passed March 3, 1843.

A small portion of the lands yet remains unselected. Immediately after the grant was made, the State Geologist designated certain important points in the Upper Peninsula, which he represented as very valuable and advised their selection for the use of the State. The surveys not having been completed, I have not yet been able to secure the lands so designated.

The report of the Board of Internal Improvement will acquaint you with the condition of that branch of the public service. In accordance with the provisions of the act of February 21, 1843, iron, sufficient to finish the Central Railroad, to Marshall, and the Southern Railroad to Hillsdale, has been procured and both roads completed to the places named. In effecting this object, besides the sums already paid, indebtedness amounting in the aggregate to \$69,564 77 has been incurred, which now stands against the Board and for payment of which the net revenues of all our public works are pledged.

The Central road was finished to Marshall about the 10th of August last, and since that time has been in use between Detroit and that place, a distance of 110 miles. The total amount of receipts the past year was \$211,149 24, of which \$93,351 03 was for passen-

gers and the balance for freight. The whole expense of repairs and running the cars during the same period was \$99,419 51, leaving a net profit, according to the statement of the acting Commissioner, of \$121,750 33. Of the net revenue \$25,845 41 have been paid into the State Treasury, \$57,424 53 paid for iron, and the balance, except about \$3000 on hand, mostly expended in the increase of stock and further improvement of the facilities of the road, in the construction of side tracks, and building a ware house at Detroit. The board estimate the receipts on this work the ensuing year at \$275,000 00.

This road is also mostly graded from Marshall to Kalamazoo, a further distance of 56 miles, and will be ready to receive the iron on that part of it at an early period of the ensuing season. The board would meet with but little difficulty in obtaining the necessary supply of iron, but for the high price of that article, caused by the tariff of 1842, the cost of the quantity wanted to lay the track between the places named being increased, in consequence, little less than thirty thousand dollars. It is confidently believed, however, notwithstanding its enhanced price, that the iron can be obtained without further legislative action upon the subject, and the road made available to Kalamazoo before the close of the current year. A further small appropriation of 20,000 acres of land is required for the erection of buildings at the several stations and for construction of the necessary side tracks.

The whole amount of receipts upon the Central Railroad the last year was \$60,330 34, being an excess of \$36,276 01 above those of the preceding year. The receipts were all required and have been expended in running cars, in repairs of the road and in the further increase of stock; and a debt previously incurred for like objects, estimated to be about \$10,000 00 still remains unpaid.

The road being in a dilapidated condition at the commencement of the year and its stock being insufficient, the expenditures that have been made were anticipated, and the Legislature, at its last session, advised of their necessity. The improvement of the harbor at Monroe, affording, as it does, greater facilities to commerce, the present good condition of the road and the increased quantity of its stock, now valued above \$50,000, all warrant an estimate of receipts, upon this work the ensuing year, greatly exceeding that of any preceding one; and it is confidently believed, that, besides paying current expenses, the revenue will be sufficient to pay a portion of the indebtedness contracted by the board for iron. The cost of the iron purchased for this road, under the Act of February 21, 1843, including two locomotives, was \$58,612 74, of which \$45,006 94 have been paid from receipts of the Central road, and the balance being \$13,605 80, remains a charge upon the future proceeds of the public works, and is part of the debt above mentioned. The board estimate the receipts on the Southern road at \$100,000 the present year.

Contracts for the completion of the Clinton & Kalamazoo Canal, between the villages of Rochester & Frederick, were made in the spring, in accordance with the provisions of the Acts of March 1, 1843, and of March 2, 1844, at a price not exceeding the estimates of a competent Engineer, and for a sum less than the appropriation made. In the progress of the work it has been found that, by reason of subsequent dilapidation, a greater amount of labor is required than had been estimated, and that in consequence, the object of the acts named cannot be fully carried into effect without additional legislation.—The contractors have, however, continued their work, relying on the legislature for recompense of their labor, by a further appropriation.

Contracts were also made, during the summer, for the improvement of the navigation of the Flint River below the village of Flint. The unusual high state of water during most of the season in all our rivers afforded facilities for making the improvements required in this stream, which consisted mostly in the removal of flood wood that had accumulated at various points; and the work has progressed to the satisfaction of the board, and its entire completion may be expected according to the terms of the contracts.

The necessary improvements in the navigation of the St. Joseph river, between Union City in Branch county, and Sturgeon Lake in St. Joseph county, being of the character required upon the Flint, have been made with advantage the past season; but the improvements needed below that lake, being such as can only be made at a low stage of water, have been necessarily postponed until the ensuing summer, when it is hoped that the causes of delay, which have existed the last two years, will no longer prevent their completion.

I have no doubt that true policy requires the completion of the Central Railroad to St. Joseph, and the Southern at least to the navigable waters of the St. Joseph river; but to effect these objects, time will be required and means also which the State does not now possess.

The whole acknowledged indebtedness of the State and its resources are exhibited in the following statement:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes FUND'D DEBT, Unpaid interest on do to Nov. 1844, 4,900 00; Detroit and Pontiac Railroad bonds, 700,000 00; Unpaid interest on do to July, 1844, 17,280 00; University bonds assumed by the State, 39,212 48; General fund bonds, 100,000 00; Penitentiary bonds, 80,000 00.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Interest on do not called for, 8,350 00; Delinquent tax bonds, 15,000 00; Total funded debt including interest, \$3,355,942 48; UNFUND'ED DEBT, Internal Improvement warrants outstanding, 520,457 55; Interest on do. to Dec. 1, 1844, estimated, 50,000 00; Land warrants outstanding, 7,415 89; Scrip, 51,000 00; Interest on scrip estimated, 9,000 00; Tax bonds to counties, 12,301 00; Interest on do. estimated, 1,409 00; Warrants on general and other funds, 8,724 19; Interest on do. estimated, 700 00; Due for redemption and surplus money on account of tax sales, 8,853 27; Due principal of primary school fund, 51,779 00.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Total unfunded debt including interest, \$721,934 90; Total debt of the state including interest, \$4,077,177 38; RESOURCES, Central Railroad, cost to Dec. 1, 1844, \$1,842,308 00; Southern do, 926,295 00; Ten per cent added for interest, paid during construction, and for other incidental expenses, 277,800 00; Palmyra and Jacksonburg Railroad, cost including interest, 30,000 00; Locomotives and cars on Central Railroad, 110,000 00; Locomotives and cars on Southern Railroad, 51,000 00; Materials on other works, 500 00; Total value of railroads and fixtures at cost, \$3,247,968 00; Due from Detroit and Pontiac Railroad company, 130,000 00; Value of unsold Internal Improvement lands at a minimum price, 467,500 00; Salt Spring lands, 72 sections at \$2 per acre, 92,160 00; Taxes uncollected and cash on hand, 179,000 00; Assets of Michigan State Bank and other assets estimated, 33,377 00; Total available resources of the state, \$1,150,000 00.

Excess of resources over liabilities, \$72,832 62. The debt due for iron and the debt incurred for expenses upon the Southern Railroad, both previously mentioned and amounting together to about \$20,000 00, are omitted in this statement.

The residue of the University bonds, being \$60,787 92, remains still a debt against the institution, from the funds of which both the principal and accruing interest will be paid, and is not therefore considered among the liabilities of the State.

In addition to the property mentioned above, the State owns the Clinton and Kalamazoo Canal, on which has been expended about \$375,000, and which is now finished from Frederick to Rochester, a distance of about 16 miles. This work, however, without its further extension, not promising any considerable return for the investment made, has been omitted in the enumeration of the resources of the States as they now exist.

From the above statement, it will be seen that the resources of the State are about equal to its liabilities.

Among the political topics of the day, none is more prominent or more important than that of a tariff. Though wholly national in its character, it is not therefore of less interest to the people of the State. No subject has ever been more involved in mystery, or more misrepresented than this. In its discussion ambiguous terms have been used, and the usual and true meaning of words has been perverted.

A duty, whether specific or ad valorem, on an article imported, is a tax upon the consumer of that article. This is a self-evident proposition and requires no argument for its support. It follows of course that a tariff of duties on imports constitutes a system of taxation.

Duties on imports, being taxes upon the people, should be assessed with a view to their equal bearing upon all. Every branch of industry should be regarded with equal favor. No class should be exempted from sustaining its just share of the public burdens, nor should one portion of our fellow citizens be taxed to support another.

JNO. S. BARRY, Executive Office, Detroit, January 6, 1845.

Twenty-eight negroes who were manumitted in Illinois seventeen years ago, and who have been for some time confined in the jail at Shawneetown, and claimed as runaways from another State, have recently been set free by the decision of a jury. The verdict was received with great applause. It is said to have been one of the most bold and daring schemes upon record, to triumph over law and justice through professed legal means.

SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1845.

One Dollar a Year in Advance.

THE GARLAND FORGERY.

A bad state of health has for some time past incapacitated one of the Editors of this paper for his duties. We therefore hope our readers will excuse any apparent inattention.

Among the matters overlooked was an assertion by the Detroit Advertiser respecting the Garland forgery, stating that the time the document was read aloud to a knot of whigs in Jefferson Avenue, (being about the date of its issue) "an active and leading locofoco" was present.

We are authorized to take issue in this allegation, and to deny the fact. We now allege that no "Locofoco" was present, nor other than whig, unless the Advertiser reckons as "present," those who may have been casually passing through the streets, and who of course saw the assembly of whigs, reading a paper, but without hearing its contents, or knowing their business.

The fact is easily settled. The Advertiser of course can give the name of this gentleman. Will it do so?

THE TRUE POSITION ON TEMPERANCE.

Having been requested to give a definite answer to the question, to wit—"What precise Legislative action is needed now to promote the cause of Temperance?"—we shall respond to the inquiry without any apologies on the score of modesty; for our opinion asks confidence according to its worth, nothing more.

By the laws of Michigan, the licensing of public houses and groceries in each town is left to the discretion of the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and the four Justices of the Peace, who constitute what is called the Township Board. In incorporated villages, the licensing of the Grogshops is entrusted to the judgment of Trustees, who are elected annually at the Charter Elections. Through these township and village boards, a vast number of places for retailing intoxicating liquors are kept open, to the great damage of the community. The people have no chance for expressing a choice whether these places of retailing shall be opened or closed. It would be vain to attempt to decide the question through the polls under the present state of things. The only process would be by nominating a regular Temperance ticket for members of Township Board who would not grant license; and it would usually receive but a meagre support while contending against two or three well established and organized political parties. The slightest reflection shows that the Temperance feeling of the whole town could not be concentrated in this way. The consequence is, that the Township and Village Boards having no real restriction upon them, license as many places for drinking as they please, often without the least reference to the characters or circumstances of the applicants.

The law needs an alteration. The question whether any licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be granted should be decided at the Annual Town Meetings by a separate vote of the freeman of the town; the ballots to be inscribed "License" or "No License." If there be a greater number of those entitled "License," then the Licenses may be given out as usual at the discretion of the Township Board. But if there be a majority of ballots inscribed "No License," then no licenses for retailing intoxicating drinks shall be granted by the Board during that year. The same process to be observed in the case of Charter elections.

The law should also be so altered, that any person may obtain an innkeeper's license, without being authorized to sell liquors. Public houses are highly conducive to the public welfare; but the sale of intoxicating drinks add nothing to their usefulness, but on the contrary is a large subtraction from it. There is no necessary connection between Taverns and Rumselling; yet they have been connected in fact for several generations, and the legal provisions respecting both have been so intimately conjoined, that it has sometimes been difficult to keep a public house without being also legally licensed to sell spirituous liquors. All that is needed now is, that provision may be made for licensing public houses without any reference to the sale of liquors in them. There should be an entire divorce between Rumselling and Tavern-keeping; or, if a practical union should take place, it should be a union secured by the individual choice of the keeper.

A third provision is necessary. That in all cases where the people by their vote shall interdict all licenses for the sale of intoxicating drinks, the Township Board, if they see fit may license one or more druggists to sell all kinds of alcoholic liquors for other purposes than those of a beverage. By this means they can readily be had for every medicinal, chemical or other purpose; & the great objection that "none can be had for medicine," will be successfully obviated.

These are all the alterations in the laws that we deem now desirable for the Temperance cause. We are opposed to sudden and hasty legislation in most cases. Laws of every kind should be altered as little as possible, and every alteration should be clearly for the better. Such, we think, would be the result of the simple alterations we have proposed. They would satisfy Temperance men.—In those towns where a majority of the voters were for Licenses, the present law would be effective. In the others, the Temperance men would be gratified by a general closing up of those places where drunkards had been made. In every town, the majority would rule respecting the question of Licenses, which is often far from being the case now.

The proposed alterations would stimulate Temperance men to the use of moral means, in all towns in which they would be a minority. They would have their work laid out tangibly before them—to bring over a majority of the voters to their side, and this could only be done by facts, reason and argument.

Finally, the alterations suggested would injure no one—would interfere with no one's vested or inalienable rights—but would place the question whether a great legalized public nuisance should be continued or not, in the hands of those whose condition is to be made better or worse by the decision.

CLAY, LEAVITT, AND THE ADVERTISER.

The Detroit Advertiser of the 3d January has the following: Leavitt's Emancipator finds fault even with Mr. Clay's emancipation of his slave Charles. He says—"It is nothing but what a gambler might do."

We have not noticed, and cannot find in the Emancipator the passage quoted. No accurate judgment can be formed of an article, of which but a single line is extracted. Taken in connection with the precedent and subsequent matter the above line may mean a very different thing, from what it is forced to do, when thus disjointed from its proper place. As disjointed it is but a proposition of the simplest kind, to which all must assent.

If, however, the Advertiser means by this stated extract to infer a tendency to detract from Mr. Clay's deed, it does the Emancipator wrong, and treats its own readers with uncandor. In the number of the 18th Dec., page 135, is the following notice of Clay's act of emancipation: "GOOD AS FAR AS IT GOES.—The N. Y. Tribune brings us the following pleasing intelligence. We wish there were in the deed something more like an acknowledgement of the wrongfulness of slavery, though."

It then copies verbatim, and without further comment that statement of the Tribune, the leading Clay organ. The same desire to do justice to Mr. Clay is further evidenced by another editorial in the same paper and on the same page. It is as follows: "The Rochester Democrat says that Henry Clay, according to a statement in the recent Albany Convention, has offered his services as counsel for Miss Delia Webster, and is now actively engaged in her behalf. We hope it may prove true. No one can, more than ourself, rejoice to record a good deed in favor of Henry Clay. Would to Heaven we could even say he had emancipated all his slaves."

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Why does not the Advertiser publish the above and many others of like character to be found in the liberty papers, and why does it limit its information for its confiding readers to garbled extracts?

Let the petitions for striking the word "white" from the constitution of our State be circulated immediately for Signatures and forwarded to the Legislature.

Those also asking for the passage of a law referring the subject of license for the sale of ardent spirits to the towns should not be neglected. Friends of temperance and of the slave be up and doing.

The chains of the poor Slave are clanking as it were in our ears, and the drunkard is reeling before us, and what we do in behalf of these unfortunate fellow beings should be speedily done. Circulate the petitions.

We hope our correspondents will have some little compassion on our eyes and our brains, if so they will hereafter write a plainer hand and not try to crowd matter enough on one sheet, to fill "Brother Jonathan." Where this is done it is next to impossible to decipher it.

For the last five months the subject whether the Methodist Episcopal Church is to be divided or not has excited much interest in that body of Christians. It is yet uncertain whether it remains together or not. It will be as slavery decides.

It is rumored that C. M. Clay is about establishing a paper in Louisville, Ky. for the purpose of advocating emancipation.

A Vermont paper states that there are six hundred and five clergymen in that State, equal to one to about four hundred and eighty two inhabitants. Two hundred and three of these are Methodists.



