

THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

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

T. FOSTER,
G. BECKLEY, } Editors.

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 1845.

Vol. 5, No. 15.
Whole No. 223.

THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY

Will be published every Monday morning, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, by

BECKLEY, FOSTER, & Co.

FOR THE MICHIGAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

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POETRY.

The Auburn Journal publishes a Letter from a friend in Boston from which we borrow the following—

Visited Professor Longfellow at his rooms in old Harvard. The poet was in fine health and spirits, and gave me some stanzas entitled "The Lament of the Widowed Inebriate," by Doggane, which I enclose for the gratification of the readers of your paper. They breathe the true spirit of poetry and sprang in tenderness, beauty, pathos and delineation of heart broken sorrow, anything I ever saw. Longfellow says they are enough to immortalize any poet. Alas the poor inebriate! How just, how true the following lines!—

What a dagger-point likeness of the inmost soul of the drunkard have we here!—

LAMENT OF THE WIDOWED INEBRIATE.

I'm thinking on thy smile, Mary—
Thy bright and trusting smile—
In the morning of thy youth and love,
Ere sorrow came—o'er gule!

When this was true, thy heart about my neck,
And mine eyes looked into thine,
And the heart that throbb'd for me alone,
Was needing close to mine!

I see full many a smiling Mary,
On young lips a bloom bright,
And many an eye of light and love
Is flashing in my sight!

But the smile is not for my poor heart,
And the eye is strange to me,
And loneliness comes o'er my soul
When its memory turns to thee.

I'm thinking on the night, Mary,
The night of grief and rhyme,
When with drunken ravings on my lips,
To thee I homeward came.

O, the tear was in thine earnest eye,
And thy bosom wildly heaved,
Yet a smile of love was on thy cheek,
Though the heart was sorely grieved!

But the smile soon left thy lips, Mary,
And thine eye grew dim and sad,
For the tempest hur'd my steps from thee,
And the wine-cup drove me mad!

From thy cheek the roses quickly fled,
And thy ringing laugh was gone,
Yet thy heart still fondly clung to me,
And still kept trusting on.

Oh, my words were harsh to thee, Mary,
For the wine-cup made me wild,
And I chid thee when thine eyes were sad,
And I curs'd thee when thou smil'd!

God knows I loved thee even then,
But the fire was in my brain,
And the curse of drink was in my heart,
To make my love a bane.

'Twas a pleasant home of ours, Mary,
In the spring time of our life,
When I look'd upon thy sunny face,
And proudly call'd thee wife—
And 'twas pleasant when our children play'd
Before our cottage door—
But the children sleep with thee, Mary,
I shall never see them more!

Thou'rt resting in the church-yard now,
And no stone is at thy head!
But the sexton knows a drunkard's wife,
Sleeps in that lull'd bed—
And he says the hand of God, Mary,
Will fall with crushing weight
On the wretch who brought thy gentle life
To its untimely fate!

But he knows not of the broken heart
I bear within my breast,
Or the heavy load of pain remorse,
That will not let me rest!
He knows not of the sleepless nights,
When dreaming of thy love,
I seem to see thine angel eyes,
Look coolly from above.

I have rais'd the wine cup in my hand,
And wild strains I've sung,
Till with the laugh of drunken mirth
The echoing air has rung—
But a pale and sorrowing face look'd out
From the glittering cup on me,
And a trembling whisper I have heard
That I fancied, breath'd by thee!

Thou art slumbering in the peaceful grave,
And thy sleep is dreamless now,
But the seal of an undying grief
Is on thy mourner's brow,
And my heart is chill as thine, Mary,
For the joys of life have fled,
And I long to lay my aching breast
With the cold and silent dead!

Communications.

For the Signal of Liberty.

A SLAVE HOLDING CHURCH MAKES INFIDELS.

MISSISS. ERRORS.—I am strongly impressed with the idea that a slavery sustaining church must manufacture infidels. A church that holds any other relation to Slavery than that of uncompromising hostility—that does not refuse to have any fellowship with this unfruitful work of darkness—that does not faithfully reprove this sin of all villainies; must countenance a practical heresy that will drive enlightened, human minds, unconverted, who receive such a church as the Exponent of Bible doctrine, into the dark meshes of an infidel philosophy. This has been so, to sustain this position, facts might be submitted. But I will not cite isolated facts, but try to exhibit a great principle. The American church, in many of its departments, is obviously more tolerant of a conformity to her faith—without the works of faith—than of works without the nominal profession. This seems obvious from the everlasting harping we hear about formalities and "petrified creeds"—or what they understand to be the dogmatic portions of Scripture—while the scripture ethics—the sublime and pure morality of the Gospel, is thrown comparatively into the background.

If our creed is believed—if you are of our party, you may be hailed as a brother, though guilty of the blackest crimes—especially if these crimes are sanctioned by civil law, or sheltered by public opinion. Thus making the church a kind of free-masonry, where a brother is shielded from all crimes—treason and murder not excepted. Now when an infidel, or a nothing-at-all sets forth the sin of the church—and denounces it as the bulwark of slavery—though his assertions are all true, he is immediately reprobated by all the guilty parties in the church as the *ne-plus-ultra* of wickedness, and placed without the pale of their sympathies. Why is this? We have more toleration for faith without works—than for works without a profession of faith.

And here is the strong hold of infidelity. The only considerable success it ever achieved was in this way; associating itself with philanthropy in opposition to a church associated with tyranny and oppression. I refer of course to France. We are accustomed to associate the French infidels with all that is horrible and abominable. But we seldom consider that they were vastly superior to their immediate opponents in almost every particular. They saw religion associated with the State, sanctioning the greatest abominations—the direct oppressions—the most horrible murders. They denounced it, and they would not distinguish between the abominations of the papal hierarchy and papal superstition, and the religion of Jesus. Here they were wrong. Their opponents were wrong on all points. Equally misled at heart, for the most part, they took advantage of their power to grind the face of the poor. Thus it was that "religion" accidentally associated with philanthropy, triumphed for a time over religion associated with political and social abominations. An able and impartial writer, McCaughey, remarks on this subject:

"It is due to the Philosophers to say, that the secret of their strength lay in the truth which was mingled with their errors—and in the generous enthusiasm which was hidden under their hypocrisy. They were men who with all their faults, moral and intellectual, sincerely desired the improvement of man's condition—whose blood boiled at the sight of cruelty and injustice—who made man's war with every faculty they possessed on what they considered abuses—and who, on many signal occasions, placed themselves voluntarily between the powerful and the oppressed. While they assailed Christianity with rancor and unfairness, they were to men who called themselves Philosophers—they had yet, in a far greater degree than their opponents, that charity towards men of all classes and races which Christianity enjoins. Religious persecution—Judicial torture—arbitrary imprisonment—unnecessary multiplication of capital punishment—the delay and chicanery of tribunals—the exactions of farmers of the revenue—Slavery and the Slave Trade—were the constant subjects of their lively satire and eloquent discussion. Thus it appears that he really efficient weapons with which the Philosophers assailed the evangelical faith, were borrowed from the evangelical faith. The ethical and dogmatical parts of the Gospel were unhappily turned against each other. On the one side was a church boasting of the purity of a doctrine derived from the apostles, but disgraced with the massacre of St. Bartholomew—by the murder of the best of Kings—by the war of the Covenant—by the destruction of Port Royal. On the other side was a sect laughing at the Scriptures—shooting out the tongue at the Sacraments—but ready to encounter principalities and powers in the cause of justice, mercy and toleration."

Here was a forcible contest between Faith and Works—and works seem to have been more than a match for it—apostolical succession and all. Let the American churches take warning and beware, how they suffer such an issue to be formed—how they permit such a severance of faith and works—for ye see how that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

On another occasion I may show that it is not quite preposterous to institute a comparison between the Jews of our Saviour's time, and the American Church—or, between the religion of France before the Revolution and the religion of Slaveholding America.

J. M. B.
Franklin, July 15, 1845.

Old Fellows in England.—In England, upwards of £20,000 are annually disbursed by the Odd Fellows whose funds amount to the gross sum of \$3,500,000. This immense amount has been got together by weekly contributions of two pence and three pence from each member. The number of Odd Fellows in England is stated to be 260,000.

For the Signal of Liberty.

GOV. SEWARD—THE ALBANY JOURNAL—AND THE MICHIGAN STATE JOURNAL.

MISSISS. ERRORS.—I congratulate the Liberty party in the accession of the aforementioned to the number of their friends and associates. If these new friends are consistent, we may expect to see them hereafter, with a shudder steadily applied to the anti-slavery wheel. Their action will be political as well as moral. I think there can be no mistake in this matter for the last named Journal of July 16th, utters the following words: "which are unequivocal and emphatic: 'Gov. Seward.—We commend to a careful perusal the excellent letter of Wm. H. Seward on our first page.' It presents in a very clear light what appears to us to be the plain duty of all friends of freedom at this crisis. The Albany Journal says of the letter:—

"It is what we supposed it, an enlightened, philanthropic, manly avowal of sentiments with which he has ever been imbued, and which he has expressed on all proper occasions. We commend cheerfully and heartily, in every thought and expression—every sentence and word—contained in this excellent letter."

What is the language of Gov. Seward to the Cincinnati Liberty Convention, so promptly and cheerfully endorsed by the two Journals?—You have published it once, and I hope you will be willing to do it again; that the public may not mistake the true position of our new comrades:

"Emancipation is now a political enterprise, to be effected through the consent and action of the American people. They will lend no countenance or favor to any other than lawful and constitutional means. Nor is the range of our efforts narrowly circumscribed by the Constitution.

In many of the Free States there is a large mass of citizens disfranchised on account of color. They must be invested with the right of suffrage. Give them this right and their influence will be immediately felt in the National Councils, and it is needless to say will be cast in favor of those who uphold the cause of human liberty. We must resist, and we demand the admission of Slave States, and urge and demand the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. We have secured the Right of Petition, but the Federal Government continues to be swayed by the influence of Slavery as before. This tendency can and must be counteracted; and when elected, independent Congress shall have been elected, the internal Slave Trade will be subjected to inquiry. Amendments to the Constitution may be introduced and the obstacles in the way of Emancipation will no longer appear insurmountable.

But, gentlemen, I fear I may appear to digress, but when I intend only to invoke concession. If I seem to do so too earnestly, it is because I feel so deeply interested in the cause to which your efforts are devoted, and because I believe with Burke, "that we ought to act in political affairs with all the moderation which does not absolutely enervate that vigor, and quench that fervency of spirit, without which the best wishes for the public good must evaporate in empty speculation."

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your humble servant,
W. H. SEWARD.

That Governor Seward has planted himself on the broad platform of anti-slavery political action, must be obvious to the most obtuse mind. And that the two Journals have taken their place by his side, is equally certain. Will they maintain their position? Or will they, in their love of the old Whig party, sound a retreat? One thing is certain—they have taken a long stride in advance of their associates. And another thing is certain—they cannot retreat without disgrace.

Do they imagine that, when they conclude to make a permanent stand in favor of equal rights, the whole body of the Whig party will be ready to follow in their wake? I hope they will not be disappointed. We shall need the strength of that great party in the State of Michigan next fall. Without it, we are in some danger of being defeated by the "Democrats." With it, we are sure to elect our Birney and our Thomas, and a Senate and House of Representatives of the proper stamp to carry at least, one of our cardinal principles in the State—the right of suffrage to all, without regard to color. With it, we shall carry our Presidential Candidate in '48.

SELECTIONS.

From the Portsmouth (N. H.) Journal.

MR. WISE AND THE SLAVER.

"Your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."

If the above quotation is not correct, Mr. Editor, please make it so. Taking it as it stands, I suppose I must call the following sketch a dream, as I have long ranked myself among the old men. It may come true; there is nothing in the nature of things to prevent it. The premises are facts, and the conclusion is likely to follow as a natural consequence.

The scene lies about half a day's sail from the coast of Cuba. Day is just dawning upon the deck of one of our frigates, returning from the Brazilian station, and upon the wide waste of waters gently undulating beneath the mild trade-wind. On board the ship is the Hon. Henry A. Wise, of Virginia, our late minister plenipotentiary to the Court of Brazil. He has been recalled by his Government a little sooner than he wished; for he has not quite given the death-blow to the African Slave-Trade, and is anxious to signalize himself, ere he returns to his beloved country, by the capture of at least one slaver under American colors. He has just emerged from his stateroom and bid good morning to the officer

of the deck, when "sail ho," is called from the mast-head. "Where-away," shouted the officer. "Two points on our lee bow, Sir."

The ship's course was altered, and as the sun rose, a handsome Baltimore-built brig was seen about three miles distant. The frigate rapidly came up with her, and through the spy-glass it was easy to perceive that her deck was crowded with negroes. Mr. Wise in high glee called up the captain:

"Now," said he "is our chance. Run up the English colors, that fellow will be sure to run up the American flag; he knows full well that John Bull dares not search a vessel over which it waves, whether she be a piratical vessel, a slaver, or what not. Let the fellow once show the stars and stripes and he is ours."

Everything worked as Mr. Wise wished; the slaver answered a gun from the frigate, and by running up the American flag, and saucily continuing her course: what cared she for a British man-of-war! The cross of Old England was then lowered, the stars and stripes took their place at the mast-head of the frigate, and another gun was fired. This manoeuvre proved successful; the chase backed her topsail and lay to, as did the frigate also: Mr. Wise donned his official costume, and being determined to manage the whole matter himself, stepped into the boat with the lieutenant, and was soon along side the slaver. He mounted her side with great agility, leaped upon deck, (now clear of negroes), and placing himself in the attitude of one about to make a speech, with one hand pointing upward, addressed the Captain thus:

"Sir, if that flag (to me on this broad ocean the sacred personification of a patriot's hopes and a patriot's home) were trailing in the dust of defeat, in glorious war, I could weep over it, and love it, and honor it still; but to see it lift its folds, like the bold countenance of a bad woman, over a traffic at once infamous and horrid, is shockingly revolting, and enough to turn its white into red, with shame."

The Captain looked first at Mr. Wise, then up at his flag, and then at Mr. Wise again: "Sacred personification!" quoth he: "well I never! You ought to be made Professor of Poetry in the University of Virginia. And as for the traffic in niggers, I never heard tell of its being infamous and horrid, before, and I have carried it on all my life."

"Wretch!" retorted Mr. Wise, "you shall swing for this: you are caught at last. Do you know who I am?"

"No, nor don't care."

Mr. Wise's face turned as red as the American flag ought to have done: "Well, then, I'll tell you who I am: I am the great slave-trade-exterminator, Henry A. Wise, of Virginia."

"Wise, or not, in my opinion you are making a great fool of yourself. I sailed from Old Virginia only a fortnight ago, and no one there thought the trade in niggers so shockingly revolting as you seem to fancy it; else, how did I manage to load my vessel at Norfolk?"

Mr. Wise here looked as streaked as the flag at the mast-head continued to do.

"What," said he, rather faintly, "are you from Norfolk, and bound to New Orleans?"

"To be sure I am, I was driven out of my course by a storm," said the Captain.

"O-o-o-oh!" drawled Mr. Wise, "that alters the case." And turning to the lieutenant, and regarding his confidence, he continued: "Here, Sir, you have a beautiful exemplification of the 'vast difference,' which exists 'betwixt tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee.' Tweedle-dum would have hung this man, tweedle-dee sends him on his way rejoicing. Tweedle-dum would have turned the white of that flag into red, with shame, and sent the stars aloft in disgust; tweedle-dee only makes it wave the more proudly; the 'sacred personification' of 'the land of the free and home of the brave.' Captain, I ask your pardon. I honor you, and will do all in my power to protect you in your lawful commerce. I wondered why that flag didn't turn red; the mystery is now explained."

"Don't make any apologies," said the Captain, "none are needed. Had I been from Africa, I should have deserved to be hung; but as you say, trading in Virginia niggers is a different sort of a thing. Why, it must be all right, for here's my friend Parson Snoggs has got a dozen niggers on board himself. He had a loud call' from Louisiana, which he felt constrained to accept, and having bought these d'rnaries of some of his parishioners, he is taking them out to stock a small plantation with. The law says that Virginia niggers are merchandise, and what the law makes merchandise, is merchandise."

"To be sure," replied Mr. Wise, "but

to trade in African negroes is piracy; you see the two trades are entirely opposed to each other, and let me tell you, Captain, as one increases the other must decline,—we Virginians must look to that. Every negro carried from Africa into Brazil, Porto Rico, or Cuba, helps to swell the amount of sugar produced in those countries, and consequently to lower its price in the markets of the world. The result of this is to lessen the profits of the Louisiana sugar planters, and consequently to diminish the demand for slaves. In such a state of things, the slave-breeding States must either keep their negroes at home, or sell them for a mere song. The latter they would not do, and the keeping them at home would soon lead to the abolition of Slavery in all the Northern slave States. You see, Sir, we must put down the African Slave-Trade."

The visitors were invited to partake of a collation, under the awning which covered the quarter deck; never did persons appear better satisfied with each other. The parson asked a blessing and made a short prayer, in which he alluded to the African Slave-Trade in such pathetic terms as drew tears from all present. The Captain toasted Mr. Wise, as "the African Slave-Trade exterminator."

This brought up that distinguished gentleman, who made a long oration upon liberty and equality, several times apostrophizing the "sacred personification," and closing with, "Success to the American Slave-Trade!" This was received with "three times three." Several toasts equally patriotic, followed, and soon after Mr. Wise prepared to take leave. But just as he was stepping over the rail, a voice from the main hatchway was heard to call out, "Massa Wise, Massa Wise!"

Mr. Wise recognized the voice at once, stepped down upon the deck again, and caused the speaker to be brought before him. He proved to be an old acquaintance of Mr. Wise—the slave of his next door neighbor. The wife and children of this man belonged to Mr. Wise himself.

"Why, Tom, how come you here?" asked Mr. Wise.

"Massa say he want de money; I ask him to wait till Massa Wise come home; he say, no, and so here I am. Gorr-a-morry! Massa Wise, do take me back to Sally and my little niggers."

"Captain," said Mr. Wise, "let Tom go with me; I will write an obligation to secure you from damage." Mr. Wise's eye glistened as he spoke. The obligation was written, and Tom went with Mr. Wise on board the frigate. He did not load the boat down with his baggage, and his own heart felt so light that his body seemed to him of no weight at all. The two vessels filled away again and continued on their voyages. Mr. Wise was a thoughtful man throughout all that day. He walked at least ten miles on the quarter deck of the frigate, spoke scarcely a word to any one, and when he retired at night to his state room, it was a long while before sleep visited his eyelids. As he turned himself for the last time previous to falling asleep, he muttered to himself, as the conclusion to which he had arrived after a day of severe cogitation, "D—n it! I verily believe, if I had been raised in New England, I should have been as red-hot an Abolitionist as Garrison himself."

He never spoke a truer word in his life.

VATTEL.

See Mr. Wise's late correspondence on the Slave-Trade.

Running Off.—Negroes are running off from Maryland and Virginia in scores. The Washington, Baltimore, and Richmond papers are crowded with advertisements offering rewards for absconding slaves. From Kentucky, also, the immigration through Ohio to Canada continues unabated. Success to the runaways.—*Pa. Patriot.*

Smuggling.—Asa Boss and Newland Smith, were yesterday found guilty of smuggling goods from Canada, by the U. S. Circuit Court. As the law is severe for that offence, they will probably be provided for out at Jackson.—*Free Press.*

Circulation of City Newspapers.—The New York Sun and the Tribune have received the printing of the list of letters from the Postoffice, satisfactory evidence having been given the minister of that city, by the publishers, that a circulation of the two papers was higher than any others in the city. The circulation of the Sun, others in the city, is 24,802; daily in the country, 7,338; total, 32,140. This is the largest circulation of any daily newspaper in the United States. In Philadelphia, the advertising has been given to the Ledger and the Spirit of Times.—*Pilot.*

To Anglers.—To insure a bite, take a cross dog with you to the water, and under take to throw him in.

SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 1845.

One Dollar a Year in Advance.

FOR GOVERNOR,
JAMES G. BIRNEY.

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,
N. M. THOMAS.

CONGRESSIONAL PLUNDERING.

Sometime since we took occasion to expose the shameless robbery of the National Treasury, in the shape of appropriations for books, amounting in one session to \$600 each member, or \$133,000 in all, making the pay of the members amount to Twenty-Five dollars a day.— This was a fair business for a ninety days session.

But this was far from being all. A portion of the Senate came in for additional spoils. The session of Congress expired at 2 o'clock, A. M. of March 4, 1845.— An extra session of the Senate was called to meet at 12 o'clock of the same day, to confirm the members of the Cabinet, Foreign Ministers, &c. The new members of the Senate arrived and took their seats, and drew their mileage fees, of course. But the old members, (about two thirds of the Senate,) were allowed constructive mileage fees for travelling to their respective States and back again, between 2 o'clock A. M. and 12 M. of the same day. This was according to a decision of Vice President Dallas. Some if not all of the old members, thus pocketed the fees for travelling which they never performed averaging about \$700 each, or some \$20,000 in all. Thus to apply the case in our own State. Gen. Cass, the new Senator from Michigan, took his seat March 4th, and drew his travelling fees, according to the established rule. Gov. Woodbridge, who remains as Senator till 1847, was already in Washington, and by this decision was entitled to draw Nine Hundred Dollars for travelling to Detroit and back in imagination. As the official document is not yet published, we know not for a certainty whether he was guilty of taking the fee: but as the decision was made by the proper officer of the Senate, we presume that he did accept it in common with the other members.

The Whigs lay the blame of this fraud upon the Treasury upon the decision of Vice President Dallas, which they allege is without a precedent. But our impressions are that a similar allowance for constructive mileage was made at the first Senate session at the accession of Harrison in 1840. But we are unable to put our hands upon the evidence of it. Whether the iniquity has ever been perpetrated before or not, its character is the same.

The correspondence of the Tribune says that the official statement of the amount paid out to Senators for constructive mileage at the last session, and the members to whom it was paid, is kept concealed from the public eye at Washington, although applications have been repeatedly made to the Secretary of the Senate. It is intimated that the intention is to keep the matter as dark as possible, until it shall be partially forgotten by the people.

But there are also other pecuniations upon the Treasury of a most flagrant character, which demand the stern rebuke of the people before they become adopted as a legitimate usage. We quote the following exposition of them from the Washington Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.

"My attention has been called to an abuse, which, if not checked in the bud by the influence of public opinion, will soon grow into fearful magnitude. On turning to page 68 of Document 54, published by the House of Representatives, being the same account which was kept back by McNulty for some time, I find the following item:

1843, December, Nathan Clifford, to 17 days per diem as a Member of Congress from the 3d day of March, 1843, to the 20th of the same month, at \$8 per day, while confined at Washington by severe bodily indisposition and unable to leave for home \$135 50

Now it must be remembered, that Mr. Clifford's term of service expired on the 3d of March, and yet here he was paid \$8 per day for 17 days subsequent to the expiration of his term on the ground that he was sick at Washington. This is a principle which, if admitted and allowed to take root, will spread itself with fearful rapidity, for the facility with which Members of Congress habituate themselves to grasping all the public money which they can have an excuse to handle, has been strongly exemplified. Witness the Constructive Mileage and the immense sums paid for Books for their use at every session of Congress. Where will this stop if it be allowed to go unchecked—if every member who may happen to be unwell at the close of the term of service, or at

the adjournment of a session, can remain in Washington and charge and recover his \$8 per day as long as he remains sick? A few pages further on in this very document I find a strong exemplification of what may be expected if this principle is to be acted upon. On page 114 of the same document there is the following item:

1844, April, J. J. Roane—for thirty days detention by sickness in Washington City after the adjournment of Congress, in July, 1832, at \$8 per day \$240 00

Here see the principle illustrated. Per diem pay having been allowed to one member whose term of service had expired, because he was detained by sickness in Washington, Mr. Roane goes back a period of twelve years, and claims pay on the same account for thirty days' detention. Is not this an abuse? And should it be allowed to go on and take root without being checked? Nor is this all. I am informed that, during the present year, the accounts of which will not be published until December, the executors of Barker Burnell, a deceased member from Massachusetts, who died in this city after the expiration of his term on the 3d March, 1843, have made claim and recovered payment for per diem for him during the time he was sick previous to his death, and the Congress was over. Is this to be allowed to continue, and grow up until, by prescription, it becomes a vested right?

THE CAUCUS SYSTEM.

The Perry Countryman contains another letter from Wm. Goodell on the Caucus System. We commend the following extract to the attention of our readers:

"It was modest and becoming enough in James G. Birney to request the Liberty Editors who had raised his name for the Presidential candidate of a new campaign, that they would forbear doing so, until the voice of a National convention should be heard in the selection of a candidate. And it was proper enough in the Editors to comply with his wishes. I do not claim that Editors any more than other men shall forestall the action of the masses on that subject. It is the real matter of fact action of the masses that I seek. And for that very reason I protest, strongly and solemnly against the doctrine, apparently implied, and indeed commonly held, in the other parties, of late, that the masses must be won, and say no thing about the matter until King Caucus, speaking through an artfully managed convention has a given hour in the day, (too late for review) given out the authoritative mandate, and then all hands must stand ready—whether they ever heard the name of the candidate before or not—to shout 'encore' or 'brava' at the top of their lungs!

Instead of all this machinery and force, let the entire Liberty party to-day (no time to be lost) from Maine to Wisconsin, as in an already sitting committee of the whole, take up the question of Presidential candidate and discuss it, in good earnest, in case it needs any discussion. A large Convention, to be sure—and the safer therefore, 'for in the multitude of councilors there is safety.' Elbow room enough, too, between the St. Croix river and Lake Superior, and time enough for all to be heard, before the previous question shall be sprung upon us. Let every voter understand and exercise his right to nominate, or else (what any 'cute yankee boy of twelve years old might tell him) let him understand that his right to vote is a mere right to be the dangerous puppet of any self-elected, wire workers, who may busy themselves for a twelve month, by correspondence or otherwise, to settle the point whether A. B. C. or D. shall be Presidential Candidate at our next 'Buffalo Convention'—or (perchance of a Select Committee of such a Convention, designated by the Chairman, or those who may stand around him—and then sitting in conclave, and reporting the name of a candidate.

In such a truly 'National Convention' as has now been proposed, let all Liberty men be heard. In local squads, in villages, school districts, towns counties, and cities; let them congregate, and propose their candidates. The Liberty presses will publish their nominations. If any in Ohio, Maine, or elsewhere, believe that William Jay or William H. Seward, or Cassius M. Clay (or the great great 'Harry' himself) would make as a better candidate than James G. Birney, let them come out, like honest men, openly, before the entire mass of the party, and say so; and see how the proposition will be received. A good nomination need not shun the day light, two or three years before the election. Let the people have notice before hand, and have time to compare and reflect.

Then, you may hold your 'Buffalo Convention to good purpose. The voice of the people, going there, from all quarters, will come back again and be the voice of the PEOPLE; and not the voice of Mr. Nobody-knows-who, behind the curtain.

I have no objections to wire men, or men thinking themselves wise, or commendably desiring to become so, should lay their heads together in consultation, by letter writing or orally as they may find most convenient.—What I recommend covers all the ground of course. But let there be no monopoly of this same business of constitution. It is hardly modest for those who intend to do it no pains, themselves, to bring about the nomination they desire, to tell all the rest of their brethren, and a vast majority of them, too, to be

careful and express no opinions, until the machinery through which they intend to speak shall become ready to articulate their wishes, and to do so at a time and place that shall clothe them with authority, and render them irreversible. Let the Editor of the Cincinnati Herald, for example tell who he thinks should be nominated. Let the Editor of the Albany Patriot do the same, and so on; and let any correspondents of those papers do the same thing. Then, on due comparison and reflection, let the delegates to a National Convention, equitably appointed, make their nomination—and, after all, let the Convention's nomination be made by the people—the party's—and voted for by the members of the party, if it be WORTHY of their support, BUT NOT OTHERWISE! Let every nominating Convention act under the salutary restraint of knowing that they have to do with men & not puppets—with honest men, and not with the COLLARED SERVS of a party—the slaves of King Caucus—or King Somebody, out of sight, that will not look men in the face, and tell what he wants, and for what reasons!

I have not written this because I think the Liberty party has become the victim of this detestable system of "vice-pulling," but because I am well assured that it has not, and because I trust in God that through the fidelity of its members, it will not become so. To say that it is exposed to the danger of it, is only saying (no slander) that it is located in North America, and exists in the year 1845—a WHERE and a WHEN that forbid, of necessity, its exemption from such danger.

What I have said of an open discussion of candidates, I might say over again respecting a free discussion of measures. The question of free trade, or tariff, will have to be decided by somebody. And if the masses do not discuss and settle it, some doly managed Convention will have to do it, after the Baltimore fashion, to their hands.

These views of party management I have thrown under the head of errors, because I consider the practices and usages I have here opposed, to be, not more enslaving and anti-democratic than they are corrupt and demoralizing. How true it is, that every thing opposed to the free exercise of the rights of all men is opposed, likewise, to the fundamental principles of a sound Christian morality, so that true liberty and pure religion cannot be separated from each other!

WILLIAM GOODELL.

THE STATE DEBT.

We are inclined to believe that, on the whole, a State debt is a State evil; and where the evil has been incurred, it will be wise in the people to remove it as soon as possible, and in some States measures have already been taken for its prevention in future. The State of Louisiana, according to its population and resources, is more heavily in debt than any other State; and by their new State Constitution the Legislature are expressly prohibited from creating a debt, excepting in extreme cases, unless by consent of the people. The people of Michigan have also incorporated a similar provision into their fundamental law.

This is doubtless wise as a matter of prevention; but how are we to pay the interest on the State debts already contracted? This is a practical question which stares the citizens of Michigan in the face; and it is one which they must meet.

But how much is our State Debt? The Governor's Message of last January shows that it was \$4,077,177.38. A report of a Legislative Committee states that on Jan. 1, 1846, there will be due from the State the sum of \$459,531.75, including the annual expenses of the State, which are about \$70,000. To meet this, there is nothing but the receipts from the Central Railroad, the net profits of which are not estimated by the most sanguine at more than \$169,000, leaving a balance of \$300,000 due next January, but entirely unprovided for. So much for our immediate prospects.

But the affairs of a State should be conducted on a well-considered and systematic plan. What shall that plan be? Let us endeavor to look into the future a little, and consider what is best to be done.

Our State debt is a little more than Four Millions of Dollars. This we are not able to pay at present; and therefore we take it that we must pay interest on it to our creditors who ever they may be. We do not know the rate of interest paid on all the State liabilities, but we will assume it to be six per cent, which will give an annual interest to be paid by the State of \$240,000. Call the annual State expenses \$60,000, and you have a yearly expenditure of \$300,000 which must be met by the people. The question is, how shall they meet it?

It is vain to look to our Public Works for sufficient resources. The Southern Railroad has not yet paid a cent of net income into the Treasury, while it has been a continual source of expense. Nor will it pay any thing of moment for many years to come. Our only resource is the Central Railroad. The net receipts of last year were \$121,750. They will not probably exceed that the present year. But the general condition of the road should be considered. It is mostly new, and on the new sections there are costs but little for repairs. But the Governor's Message asserts that \$100,000 are needed now to pay iron to lay new the superstructure between Ann Arbor and Detroit, and that the repairs generally will soon be heavy. He declares it as his opinion that the road, when completed to St. Joseph, will not yield more than six per cent above all its expenses. We are inclined to think this estimate a fair one for sometime to come, if the road remains the property of the State. The estimated cost of the road to St. Joseph is \$2,400,000. Six per cent on this gives us \$144,000 as the average net income of the road when completed. Deduct this from \$300,000, the amount of our annual liabilities, and we have a balance left of \$156,000 to be provided for in some other way.—We have heard five methods of meeting this Liberty proposed:

By levying it unpaid till we "get ready" to pay it at some future time:

By issuing State Scrip whenever it may be necessary:

By making another loan to pay this interest:

By imposing a direct tax; and

By selling the Public Works, and thus liquidating our liabilities.

The first proposal should be at once rejected by every honest man. The faith of the State must be kept inviolate.

The second, we think, will meet with but little favor. It would be attended by constant embarrassment and loss to the State and the citizens, while the Public Debt would be constantly accumulating: for a scrip is not money, but a promise to pay it. Besides, the scrip system has been tried, and the results have not been satisfactory.

The third proposal is to make a direct loan from year to year of \$150,000, or whatever sum may be deemed necessary to defray the annual State liabilities. By this method also the sum total of our State Debt would be steadily on the increase while the temptations to extravagant legislation would be multiplied. Besides, no small portion of the loan would stick to the fingers of those employed in making it, and in handling the cash. Our past experience in this respect is enough. In addition to this, we do not believe the consent of the people could be obtained for contracting a loan.

The fourth proposition is to impose a direct tax upon the people to meet this deficiency. If there be 800,000 people in the State, the annual tax of each man, woman and child will be a little more than half a dollar each, or three dollars to each family of six persons. But as a portion of the families do not pay any taxes, the burden will come so much the heavier on those who do. Hence the average amount of the tax to each tax payer may be estimated at about four dollars, which will bring a heavy assessment on to the large property holders. We have not now the means at hand of substantiating this estimate by statistics, but we presume it will be found a very moderate one.

It is to be recollected that this tax is to be perpetual. At least, according to present appearances, it would be needed for a generation. It would also be assessed upon all portions of the State, and chiefly for maintaining a system of public works by which only particular portions of the State would be directly benefited, while the whole State would be damaged, in a pecuniary point of view, to the amount of the expenses above the receipts, which amount of damage the whole State would be required to pay. We are inclined to believe that the State Tax here proposed would be felt as grievous in the border settlements, and would be paid by the inhabitants very reluctantly. Besides, it is very doubtful whether a system of taxation of this kind would be permanently submitted to by the people, while there were abundance of counselors ever ready to suggest to them that this grievous burden might be made to cease at any time by selling the Public Works.

So far, then, as we can see, the alternative before the people of Michigan is heavy Direct Taxation, or a sale of the Public Works.—Like a large portion of our citizens, we have been well aware that there were two sides to this question, and we have been somewhat in doubt what course was wisest, but our reflections have led us to believe that, under our present circumstances, the latter alternative should be preferred. But the Public Works should be sold only on just and equitable terms.

They should all be sold together. It would be no object to sell the Central Railroad, and keep the other works which cost much annually and yield nothing.

They should not be sold for much, if any less than the cost. Their real value cannot be ascertained without trial; and the cost is the best criterion of their market value that yet exists. We, therefore, would substantially abide by it.

They should be sold only on condition of receiving the bonds of the State to be canceled at the time of sale. Any other arrangement will make the State a subject for sharpers to try their wits upon. Pay down should be the only proposition in this case.

The best possible security of the citizens against the fraud and oppression of the future proprietors of the Public Works should be required as a condition of their sale.

Under these restrictions our mind preponderate in favor of a sale of the Public Works, for the following reasons:

1. The proceeds of the sale would cancel nearly all the State debt. The cost of the Railroads last January was three and a quarter millions. Supposing them to be sold for that sum, the balance of our indebtedness would not much, if any, exceed one million, which might be cancelled from other resources of the State, without resorting to permanent taxation.
2. The Roads might be as well managed by a company as they now are by the State. If the rate of fare on the roads be as cheap as it now is, and the business be done as well and as promptly, we do not see but the citizens will derive as much benefit from the roads as they would if they were owned by the State.
3. The question of having any Public Works would then be decisively settled in the minds of the people.
4. We could soon extinguish our State debt, and thus be exempt from any more taxation than would be necessary to meet the annual expenses of the State administration.—Whereas the experience of all nations teaches us that a heavy State debt has always been followed, in the end, by heavy taxation.
5. The time of the Legislature would not then be so largely occupied with "Internal Improvement" bills, and the details connected with the Public Works, and the sessions of the Legislature might thereby be shortened one third or one half.
6. The sale will tend to simplify the sphere of Government operations, and bring it within narrower and more legitimate limits. The principal object of government should be to protect the rights of each individual against all aggression, domestic or from abroad; and

the transportation of the persons and produce of the citizens is a business as foreign to this object as would be the furnishing of them with garments to wear, or tools and implements to use.

WILLIAM GOODELL'S ADDRESS.

The last number of the Albany Patriot contains the Address of Mr. Goodell, which was read to the State Liberty Convention at Port Byron. A motion for its postponement prevailed by a very large majority. It fills more than ten solid columns of that paper. As Mr. Goodell is one of the oldest and ablest of our anti-slavery writers, and as his propositions are of great importance in themselves, and are presented to the Liberty party for rejection or adoption, we presume our readers would like to know their substance and bearing.

The first part of the address is chiefly composed of quotations from the doings of National and State Liberty Conventions, showing that they have sanctioned the idea that the Liberty party was intended to protect the rights of all men, and "to carry out the principles of equal rights into all their practical consequences and applications." This position we think he fully establishes.

The second part defines the principles and objects of the Liberty party, thus: "The principles of the Liberty party as already developed, may be happily expressed in the luminous language of Thomas Jefferson:

"The rightful power of all legislation is to declare and enforce only our NATURAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES, and take none of them from us. No man has a natural right to commit aggressions on the equal rights of another, and this is ALL from which the law ought to restrain him. Every man is under a natural duty of contributing to the necessities of society, and this is all the law should enforce upon him. When the laws have declared and enforced all this, they have fulfilled their functions."—"The idea is quite unfounded that on entering into society, we give up any natural right."

The same principles are expressed in the Declaration of the American Independence:—"All men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."—"To secure these rights, GOVERNMENTS are instituted among men."—"To establish justice—and secure the blessings of LIBERTY"—is the avowed and the grand object of the Constitution of the United States.

And this agrees with the Scriptures, which everywhere designate the business of civil government to be—"to execute judgment [i. e. justice] between a man and his neighbor," as well as to "proclaim LIBERTY throughout the land, to ALL the inhabitants thereof."

The third part shows how these principles would require the Liberty party to act in reference to all questions of public policy now pending.

The Constitution would be regarded as an anti-slavery instrument, whose great and paramount object is "to establish justice, and secure the blessings of LIBERTY." Hence, all men would be treated alike, & slaveholding be punished by national authority, as a crime.

The Elective Franchise would not be limited by color or country.

The Liberty party would regard the Annexation of Texas, if consummated, as bringing the slaves of that country under the authority of our anti-slavery Constitution, which knows no slaves, and they would be treated by national authority as free, and the agreement to maintain Slavery in Texas would be regarded as a nullity.

As the Constitution is anti-slavery, and, if it were not, could be made so, a Dissolution of the Union would be entirely unnecessary.

The Liberty party would take ground against all Monopolies and Class Legislation. It would legislate, not for manufacturers, nor farmers, nor capitalists, nor laborers, but for men, and for all men alike.

A Protective Tariff would of course receive no countenance from the Liberty party. A Tariff for Revenue would also be abolished, Custom House duties ultimately done away, and Direct Taxation adopted.

Retrenchments would be in vogue in all departments of Government—the President be reduced to \$10,000 or \$15,000, and Congressmen to \$5,000 a day. The Military School at West Point would be abolished, and the Army and Navy, after a time, become obsolete, while Foreign Ministers would be rarely needed.

The Executive Patronage would be reduced by the election of most of the National Officers, including the Postmasters. The President and Vice President would be chosen by the people, without electors. The Executive power to be diminished in a similar manner in each State.

An effectual Judiciary Reform to be made, so that the Law may secure redress to the poor, the oppressed, the defrauded and the wronged.

The binding power of nominating Conventions would be entirely discarded by the Liberty party.

The Public Lands would be distributed gratis to temperate, industrious settlers.

National disputes would be settled by negotiation or arbitration, without a resort to arms.

The address concludes with an argument on the policy of adopting these as the principles of the Liberty, thereby arraying it against both Southern Slavery and Northern Aristocracy, and in favor of Abolition and Genuine Democracy.

Now, in reference to this formal creed presented for the adoption of the Liberty party, we have several things to say.

We say nothing against the introduction of these topics, although the positions taken, in several particulars, do not meet our views.—But we regard the Liberty party as a permanent one; and therefore it must deliberate and act on all these questions, whenever they may come up before it for decision. If we are to take charge of the affairs of the nation, we must, as a party, be prepared to do whatever belongs to civil government to do.—Hence, we deem the discussion of these subjects, in all their extent, in all our papers and

conventions, to be in order; and they should be introduced just as soon as there are individuals to be found sufficiently interested in them to bring them in for discussion.

But, in the very outset, we do object to the introduction of this or any other plan as a creed, which must be subscribed by every applicant for admission to the Liberty party as a member. We hold to the great "One Idea" with which we commenced—the Abolition of Slavery—and whosoever will vote and act right in reference to that question, is to be received and recognized as a Liberty man, whatever may be his faith on Banks, Tariffs, or any thing else. This must still remain the paramount idea—the central position, to which all other subjects must be subordinate.

We would not treat the "other interests" as matters of no importance, nor would we permit them to occupy the supreme place in our minds. Every interest should be treated according to its real value. We would have all the matters suggested by Mr. Goodell discussed in every Convention where the members may be disposed to discuss them.—We would have the Conventions, if they choose, express their opinions upon them, by formal resolutions, or otherwise; and these opinions should be regarded as the voice of a majority of that body which expressed them. The opinions of all these Conventions, thus expressed, would exhibit the mind of a majority of the party on these questions; and this might be further confirmed, from time to time, by resolutions of the National Conventions.

We, therefore, would ask all our fellow citizens, whatever might be their political faith, to unite with us for efficient action on the question of Slavery—a question which John Quincy Adams, Gov. Seward, and others of our wisest statesmen, have declared to be paramount in importance to all others. So we would regard it, and so we would labor accordingly for the overthrow of the institution. The other interests, on which our citizens differ, shall receive that consideration which the majority may deem them entitled, after full discussion in every section of the Liberty party. In this way, while we all labor for the success of the "One Idea" of Abolition, we should agree to differ on the minor questions till the time should arrive for final action upon them.

But we have another objection to the adoption of Mr. Goodell's creed, as absolutely obligatory upon us for the future. The condition of a country is perpetually changing.—The political questions before it change frequently from year to year. For instance, how suddenly did John Tyler spring the Texas question on the nation! After it was once introduced into the Senate, and was espoused by the Executive, it became a national question, on which parties were obliged to take ground. The question of incorporating California, or Canada, or Mexico, may come up as suddenly, through the madness of a party espousing such a project, and other parties must take ground upon it. In like manner, the old issues may become obsolete in a single year. Who now would think of moving to recharter the old U. S. Bank? The principles and practice of a party should keep pace with the progress of enlightened public opinion in the people. That opinion is subject to material and important changes. Hence a party, if wise, should accommodate itself to the actual condition of the country; and the decisions of its local and national Conventions should correspond with its ever-varying circumstances. Each National Convention would, therefore, be considered as determining the policy of the party, on subordinate questions, only till otherwise determined by its successors.

The Slave Representation.

A correspondent asks if it be true that every slaveholder casts three votes for five slaves, as is sometimes represented in anti-slavery papers. We answer, that it is not.—In apportioning Representatives in the Slave States, the free persons count the same as an equal number of free persons at the North; then all other persons (excluding Indians not taxed) are enumerated and three fifths of the number added to the whole number of free persons. The owner of five hundred slaves in South Carolina has the same political power in electing a President or Member of Congress as three hundred of the free population (not 300 voters) of Michigan. But the statement is often made that the owner of 300 slaves will cast 311 votes. This is incorrect. He wields a power equal to 300 free persons, which number would include fifty or sixty voters. But our National Constitution knows nothing about color. The word "white" is not found in it.

According to the present apportionment, the owners of slaves send 22 Representatives to Congress. These members represent only human property, and will therefore be zealous for the maintenance of that institution on which their seats depend. This number may be considered as a corps of reserve, always in readiness, in every important controversy, to throw their influence for the South. And when we consider that a few important measures are carried by a greater majority than 25, the tremendous power which even this small number can exert must be apparent. Besides, in the State, they have powerful auxiliaries; for according to a report of Mr. Adams last winter, every Senator from the Slave States is a slaveholder, and has been for a generation, with scarcely an exception.

The Democracy of Michigan have voted, with great unanimity, to take into the confederacy a foreign nation, and give them this political premium for holding slaves, every three slaves counting against five free persons in Michigan. This we suppose they consider to be "political equality!" They also guarantee the whole naval and military power of the United States to keep the slaves in subjection for all future time. Hence we conclude that the slave representation is quite agreeable to the genius of "Modern Democracy."

Don't fail to read the article on the first page concerning Mr. Wise and the Slave Trade.

LEGAL REFORM.

Last week our remarks were on the Expenses of the Law, showing that under the present system a poor man had no chance at all in a protracted and obstinate contest with the rich, on account of the endless delays and accumulated costs of legal proceedings; and we expressed the opinion that these expenses might be very greatly reduced. We also argued that the parties to a suit should pay all the expenses of it, whereas the County and State now pay from thirty to two hundred dollars on each contested case, which is collected for the most part from the pockets of peaceable citizens who have no interest whatever in the strifes for which they are annually assessed.

We shall close this series of articles by suggesting some material amendments in the present practice of the COURTS OF LAW.

1. Every case should be tried on the day in which it is made returnable, unless adjourned for a sufficient reason.—This is now the practice in Justice's courts. But when a case is entered in the Circuit Court, there is no knowing when it will be called. Suppose there are fifty cases on the docket to be called previously. No living mortal can tell how soon they will be despatched. The first case may occupy a week, or the whole fifty be laid over, or be settled, or otherwise despatched in three or four days. Hence the plaintiff and defendant must each be on hand every day with all their witnesses, for six, eight, or ten days, and then, perhaps, the case will not be reached at all that session, or it will be put over on application of one of the parties. At the next term, both the parties and their witnesses are again taken from their private business, no matter how pressing it may be, and are compelled to attend four, six, or ten days more till the case is fairly adjusted. The system involves a heavy expense to the parties, and a great inconvenience and loss of time to the witnesses, while it is of no service to any body. This great evil should be remedied. It can be done only by allowing the Court to appoint a day for the hearing of each case, in the same manner that Justices now do; and would, doubtless, require an alteration in the organization of the Courts.

2. The testimony of the witnesses should be taken down in writing by the clerk of the Court, in the same manner that is now practiced in Chancery suits; and in case of an appeal, a transcript of this testimony should be sent up to the superior Court, instead of requiring the attendance of the witnesses a second time. The expense of this would be far less than might be supposed at first sight; the time occupied in the trial of the case would be no longer than it now is, while the witnesses would be hindered from their business only one or two days, instead of six, eight, or twelve, as at present.

3. No adjournment of a cause should be permitted in any case without actual and sufficient cause; nor should the final decision of the cause be delayed more than six months, unless in some extreme case where the testimony could not be obtained within that time. The general tendency of delay is to defeat the ends of justice.

4. The Chancery Courts should be abolished. The business transacted in them could be done as well in the other Courts, at a far less expense. No man rationally think of commencing a contested suit in Chancery for less than a hundred dollars, and the expenses often amount to many hundreds. They are a trap and a snare to the ignorant and uneasy, while many who would gladly keep out ar driven into this vortex by the force of circumstances, without ever knowing how they they shall get out.

5. It should be made optional with the parties to have a jury, or not. Now in the Circuit Courts, they are compelled to have one, and to pay the expenses of it, whether they wish for it or not.

6. Each party should have the privilege of using the other party as a witness, as is now practiced in Chancery suits.—This proposition will undoubtedly shock the prejudices of many at first thought, but we are satisfied that full and substantial justice cannot be rendered until the practice shall be generally adopted. Such an alteration in legal practice is demanded by the enlightened spirit of the age. Many transactions take place between individuals which are known only to themselves, or which cannot well be proved by any other persons. Besides, the present practice strongly tends to relax the moral principles of the parties, and of the whole community. Take the case of two farmers who usually are good neighbors, but having become angry they will not settle without the law. The defendant is a Presbyterian deacon, and the plaintiff is a Baptist man. Both parties, knowing that they shall get only what they can prove, bring in charges at extravagant prices, and also charge for articles or services that otherwise they would have been ashamed to mention. The object of each is to prove the greatest account. The plaintiff reads over his charges, to which the deacon pleads the general issue—that is, he denies every one of them, and gives notice of an account to balance. "What!"

says the Baptist man, "do you deny that I let you have such and such articles—which weighed so much, and the price was to be so much a pound? You know that we talked the matter over and agreed on all the particulars." To which the deacon replies, "If you can prove it, I will pay it; otherwise, not. I admit nothing." "Well," says the Baptist, "you are a pretty professor of religion to deny that you ever had the least article of me, when you know you did." But after thinking a few moments he finds that the only way he can stand any chance of obtaining justice is by denying every thing also; and thus he is driven into practising the very thing he before condemned. Each party denies all his neighbor's account, and proves what he can of his own; and owing to the want of evidence, or the absence of witnesses, not more than half the charges on either side can be proved, and in this hap-hazard way, the case is decided often exactly the reverse of what it would have been had the parties been compelled to testify to the whole truth.—Such spectacles are constantly occurring in every town: justice is not dispensed, the religious character of the parties is injured, animosities among neighbors are promoted, and the law, instead of being honored and revered as the dispenser of justice, is ridiculed for its uncertainty, and becomes the favorite resort of the crafty, the dishonest and the oppressive. These results, in our opinion, would be materially prevented by eliciting the whole truth from the parties themselves.

We have now briefly gone through with the suggestions respecting Legal Reform which we promised. We have shown, as we think successfully, that the present system of administering justice might be greatly amended.

By deciding every case on its merits, according to equity, so as to do justice between man and man: By abolishing most of the Technicalities of the Common Law: By abolishing legal Delays, so that a judgment may be obtained in one-fourth of the time now required: By reducing the Expenses of suits to a very great extent: And by making important alterations in the proceedings of the Courts.

The only plausible objection we have heard to these alterations of the Law, is, that the present system has been matured by the united wisdom of the wisest and best men of many ages past, who have made the law the study of their lives; and can it be wise to throw away this accumulation of valuable rules and precedents, and thus put ourselves upon an ocean of uncertainties, with no other guide than some infatuated and fanatical reformer, who has not a tenth part of the learning he rejects?

To this we reply that it would not throw away a single principle, decision, or practice that is valuable. We would retain every one of them. But there may be such a thing as the "accumulated folly of ages," and whenever we find that, we would dispense with it. Besides, if a similar course of reasoning were adopted in other cases, how could there be any improvement? Suppose Luther, instead of thinking for himself, had said that the system of religion then existing, in all its parts was the product of the combined wisdom of the wisest and best fathers of the Church for ages, and was therefore too venerable and exalted to be called in question by so humble an individual as himself: where then would have been the Reformation that he accomplished?—What improvements can be made in any science or art by those who have such a blind and stupid veneration for the past as to even prohibit all inquiry into the need of any change?

The evils which result to the people from our present system of administering law, in our estimation, are greater than those of any other legalized provision under which the people of the State suffer, if we except such as arise from the License System. The Militia trainings are, perhaps, productive of more unmitigated evil, but they are less oppressive in their general results.

From what we have learned of the feelings of Liberty men, we are led to believe that a substantial Legal Reform, is generally desired by them; and the expression of their opinions upon that and other topics of State policy, in our opinion, comes legitimately within the province of the Liberty party.

Last week we mentioned the murder of a colored man in Indianapolis, and stated that the Rev. Henry Beecher had written on Mr. De Puy, the anti-slavery editor, to urge him to say nothing about it. Mr. Beecher has since published a statement in the Cincinnati Herald which, if correct, exonerates him from all blame.

The exact number of persons who lost their lives at the fire in New York has not been ascertained, but the names of ten are mentioned in the New York papers, and quite a number were seriously injured. It is reported that there was a considerable quantity of powder in the building that exploded. The occupiers have been arrested, and the matter is being investigated.

"THE LAND OF BLOOD!"

The numbers and enormity of the murders and crimes committed daily in the Slaveholding States, is most appalling.—We have on hand three columns of such transactions gathered from our exchanges of only three weeks.

Here is a specimen of a few, exhibiting a state of society that would be quite appropriate to the dominions of the Great Mogul.

"Inhuman Murder—Five Persons butchered in Cold Blood.—Beverly Adcock, in company with his wife, mother, two small children and two negro boys, were moving from Pontotock, Mississippi, either to Missouri or Illinois, where a brother of Adcock resides. A person of the name of A. J. McCannon, from Columbus, Miss., fell in company with them, and travelled with them some days, until the 15th ult., when, as the elder of the negroes says, he murdered Adcock, his wife and mother, with an axe, while asleep. He then drew his knife, and deliberately cut the throats of the two children, a boy and girl. He then took the two most valuable horses, the two negroes, money and other valuables of the murdered family, and left, threatening to murder the negroes if they divulged the secret. When found, the bodies of two of the individuals were torn and eaten by the hogs. He was apprehended by some gentlemen of Spring Creek, about sixteen miles north-east of Jackson, Tenn. After he was apprehended, blood was found upon his knife and pantaloons, which the negro stated, he had frequently attempted to wash off, but could not.

Another Tragical Affair.—From the Marengo (Ala.) Patriot, we learn of another bloody affair which occurred in Decatur a few days ago. That paper states that as a Mr. Mayfield, in company with his wife and daughter, was returning home from church, he was attacked from behind by Theophilus Fisher, who struck him several blows and succeeded in bringing him almost to the ground.—Mayville recovered, however, and as he arose, stabbed Fisher in the right side, the knife penetrating the right lobe of the lungs; whereupon Fisher drew a pistol, and attempted to fire upon Mayfield, but was prevented by the crowd which had by this time assembled. Fisher died next evening about sunset, and Mayfield immediately surrendered himself into the custody of the officers of justice.

Four Persons Killed.—The Cincinnati Commercial of the 30th of June gives the following particulars of dreadful deeds of blood committed on the Washita river, in Louisiana, a few days since. Two planters living on adjoining plantations had a difficulty. An unruly horse belonging to one, jumped into a lot belonging to the other, which was shot. Soon after, a negro belonging to the owner of the horse went over to the said plantation; he, too, was shot. The same evening the planter who owned the horse and the slave, took his gun and went over to the planter's house who had shot his horse and slave, and, as he stood in his yard, deliberately shot him dead. The son of the dead planter hearing the report of the gun, came out of the house, when he was commanded to stand. As soon as the gun was re-loaded, the son was shot and immediately expired. The daughter of the planter then came to the door, when the monster drew his bowie knife, and cut her throat from ear to ear, and fled. The slaves on the plantation raised the alarm, and the fiend was pursued and taken, and committed to the nearest jail, to await his trial. These awfully terrific details are from a reliable source, and we can vouch for their correctness, says the Commercial, although no names are given.

Lynch Law.—The last Pensacola Gazette gives an account of the apprehension of a man of the name of Avant, and one of his confederates named Powers, near Apalachicola. They were subsequently taken to Marianna, in Jackson county, where they were hanged on Friday, the 20th inst., without the form of a trial; and notice was at the same time given to four gentlemen of the blackleg order, that if they were found in the place after the lapse of ten hours, they should share the same fate.

The wretch who murdered the Adcock family in Tippah county, Miss., was taken, and a correspondent of the Worcester Palladium writes, tied by the neck to the top of a bent sapling, and thus sent to his long account.

George Hillard of Lawrenceville, Georgia, being suspected of robbing Mr. Rae's store, was taken a few nights since from his dwelling into the woods, and there beaten by three men to extort confession. Failing in this, they put out his eyes, and left him senseless. He was found next morning, and it is thought may recover."

The Moral Reform Society of N. Y. for the suppression of licentiousness, the last year received \$6,820. They publish 12,000 copies of the Advocate semi-monthly. In Blackwells Island are 500 female prisoners per annum, and in the city jail 4,973. These numbers show but a very faint picture of the extent of the evil.—Vineyard.

NEW JERSEY SLAVE CASE.

We are sorry to learn that the judges of the New Jersey Supreme Court have decided the great case which we have heretofore mentioned, in which Alvan Stewart made a powerful effort, against Liberty, thereby confirming the law of Slavery as it existed prior to the new constitution of 1844. The decision was controlled by Associate Judges Nevins, Carpenter and Randolph—the Chief Justice dissenting. Another set of Judges would have decided differently—so the decision only shows the state of the public mind in that quarter. The judges acknowledged that the same points had been decided differently in Massachusetts and Virginia—and so, with adverse precedents, they chose, doubtless, to yield to the claims and practice of the south. Nothing at all was deemed due to the spirit of freedom and humanity!—Ohio American.

The Southern patriarchy have a world of trouble with their property which runs away whenever it takes a notion, and, astonishing to say—without any provocation! The Port Tobacco Times thus laments over the state of things existing in its vicinity:

Last Saturday night or early Sunday morning, some seventy or eighty, and perhaps more, as it is impossible to ascertain the correct number, negroes absconded from this vicinity. They went without any provocation, and on the part of their owners, the least suspicion. There is, from what we learn, not the least doubt but this move has been somewhat brewing, and it appears up to the time of some of them leaving their masters' premises on Saturday afternoon, their usual holiday—they had not the remotest idea of running away at the time they did. A gentleman residing about six miles from this village, had every negro on his place except two of the gang. This is the second gang that has left this county within a few weeks, and we fear if some mode is not fallen upon to put a stop to it, our planters will have a beggarly number to gather their crops. There seems to be a strange and singular spirit come over this portion of our population of late.

We are somewhat curious to know what mode will be fallen upon to put a stop to this mode of emigration. The losses of these modern Abrahams are considerable—say eighty negroes at once, at \$700—\$50,000. Suppose half of them to be re-captured in Maryland, still leaves a loss of \$28,000, besides the one who is to be hung for snapping his pistol, and eight who were badly wounded. A few more Saturday's work like this, and the "gentlemen" of that vicinity may strip off their broadcloths, and do their own harvesting.

We learn from the A. S. Standard, that after Jonathan Walker had been imprisoned nearly eleven months, most of which time he was heavily ironed, put in the pillory, fined, & branded in the right hand, public sentiment set in favorably to him, and on trial under the second indictment for "stealing" three slaves, although found guilty, he was fined but \$5.00 for each slave. The United States Marshal who branded Walker was named Ebenezer Dorr, and is a native of Maine. Mr. Walker is about to publish a narrative of his captivity among these American Algerines. The slaves who were captured with Walker were returned to their masters. One of them was afterwards imprisoned on a charge of theft, and to escape the vengeance of his master, he committed suicide.

Hon. Chas. Miner, Whig M. C. from Pennsylvania, has written a letter to somebody, trying to show the Whigs that there is a great Slave Power at the South which has possession of the Presidency, and disposes of it at its pleasure. He refers to prospective nomination of Silas Wright by the Democrats, and declares he cannot escape the general ostracism of Northern men. We commend the following paragraph to those Whig papers who intend to have Judge McLean for their candidate. If we can believe Mr. Miner, Mr. McLean cannot hope to be more successful than the other Northern candidates have been. We are glad to see the Whigs waking up to the ascendancy of the Slave Power. One more defeat will convince every skeptic among them of its predominance.

"Let no Northern gentleman, whose star may now appear to be ascending to the zenith, fondly imagine that the sun will stand still in Gibeon, and the moon in the valley of Ajalon to light him to victory. If Sergeant Tilgham and Ingersoll—King and Clinton, Huntington, Ellsworth, Wolcott, the Adams, Otis, and Webster, Woodbury, Van Buren, Buchanan and Cass, and other distinguished men of the North, were unable to bear up against this under current, let no one now hope to be more successful."

Mr. Shannahan, of Casa County, has written a letter to Senator Porter to know if he will become the Whig candidate for Governor. Mr. P. declines the honor in favor of some other Whig to whom he says it is by far more eminently due. Among other things, the Senator says: "That this contest will result triumphantly to the Whigs, I cannot permit myself to doubt." A good deal may depend upon the meaning to be attached to the word "triumphantly."

The Marshall Statesman is out for Joseph R. Williams of St. Joseph, for Whig candidate for Congress in the Second District.

VERMONT.

The State Liberty Convention in Ludlow, on the 9th, was a rouser!—the Freeman says from 2,000 to 3,000 people attended. It was the largest Liberty convention ever held in this State, and its proceedings were spirited and unanimous. Milton Clarke made several speeches with great effect. Other speakers were Rev. Beriah Green, R. V. Marsh, Esq., T. Goodale, F. C. Robbins, Gen. R. Fletcher, Lawrence Brainard, Judge Hutchinson, &c. Dr. J. W. Hale presided.—Transcript.

Last week we were again visited by one of those travelling nuisances, known as a Circus, by which a considerable number of persons are supported in a state of idleness at the public expense.—We are indebted, we suppose, to the Corporation officers for these frequent visits of circuses, which are licensed by them for a small fee. But we regard them as corrupting the morals of a portion of community, and to the pecuniary interests of our citizens generally, and we know that no small portion of our best business men concur in our views, and are opposed to the granting of permits for their exhibition.

We learn that our first article on Legal Reform, in the Signal of June 23, is thought by some to contain positions wholly untenable, inexpedient, and contrary to reason. Any legal gentleman who is of this opinion can have an opportunity, if he wishes it, of replying to our statements, provided his article be temperate in its language, and no longer than ours.

Henry Clay owed much of his political eminence and influence to his ability as a compromiser. It is worthy of remark, that he lost the Presidency while pursuing the same course by which he had risen to distinction—by attempting a compromise on the Slavery and Texas question. Mr. Miner, Whig M. C. from Pennsylvania, says: "It was on the rock of compromise that the fortunes of Mr. Clay were broken." Compromising will do much for a shrewd politician; it will give a man reputation and influence with his contemporaries; but he who would stand high with posterity must avoid a compromising disposition. He must have great objects in view, and pursue them to their full extent, with unyielding firmness.

Henry Clay labored for the admission of Missouri into the Union as a Slave State with an interest and energy, which he himself says, had it been much longer protracted, would have cost him his life. Hear what his friend, kinsman, and advocate, Cassius M. Clay, in his reply to Gov. Metcalf, says of his connection with that affair. Traitors to the cause of human freedom will blithely receive their assets:

"The Governor attaches some importance to himself for having voted, with Mr. Clay, for the admission of Missouri into the Union; now if this is the basis of his fame with posterity, his ambition is low enough to meet with ample satiety; and the stone which he has built as a nation, will much outlive the fame of his acts as a statesman. We never approved of this vote of Mr. Clay's; and while we regard his action on that occasion as evidence of his intellectual eminence, and superior control over his contemporaries, we at the same time esteem it the unfortunate beginning of a course of policy, which has well nigh cost us our liberties, and driven our republic upon the very verge of ruin; as well as the loss of that moral power on his part, which has shut him out from the Presidency of the United States, and from that culminating ray of glory which for all time would have illuminated his name, if the people had found him in '44 as they did in 1799, the fearless advocate of the universal liberty of men."

We regret to see so large a portion of the Press urging on the people of these United States to a career of territorial acquisition, to be obtained, if necessary, by wars of aggression and conquest. We can see no patriotism or philanthropy in such a course. Such writers seem to think that the greatest glory of a nation is to occupy a vast extent of country. The Grand Rapids Enquirer thus commences an article contrasting the probable acquisitions of this country with those of England and Russia, and showing that "the Nov-Anglian Saxon Race" will swallow up all others on this continent:

"Considering the admission of Florida and Iowa into the Union; the annexation of Texas to the organization of the Territories of Oregon, Nebraska and Dakota; and their admission, which will soon follow that of Wisconsin; and the acquisition of California and Mexico, the inevitable consequences of a war with the latter imbecile and degraded Power, viewing this vast and rapid extension of the territory of these States, Nebraska and Dakota, and the other States of other nations, exhibits its character and illustrates its permanency."

A late number of the Albany Patriot gives the following specimen of the beauties of the legal system:

"Not long since a person in one of our western counties was interested in a small lot of land upon the borders of a little village. He wanted to sell it. His title was undisturbed, but for some reason or other, it was necessary to ask permission of the Chancellor. By him the petition for leave to sell was granted. To do so—to be asked and any person took from the file a copy of a closely written manuscript, and cost somewhat more than six hundred dollars!"

The State Journal of week before last has a collection of items respecting the Domestic Slave Trade, copied from the N. Y. Tribune, which it thinks "calculated to excite the indignation and abhorrence of all high minded people." So we think, and so we thought years since when we presented the same facts in the same words to numerous assemblies, and they have since been published in the anti-slavery papers again and again. Yet the Journal seems to have just discovered them. However, it is better to see late than to be always blind. Let us all labor to overthrow this abominable and heathenish practice of buying and selling our own countrymen.

GOV. SEWARD—A PUFF.

Gerrit Smith, writing to William L. Chaplin from Saratoga Springs, says—"I was very fortunate in falling in with Gov. Seward, and having a great part of the day with him. He loves the anti-slavery cause, and makes its success the great object of his efforts. This is rare intelligence, but credit it who can. Mr. Smith exhibits great weakness in writing in this strain. The success of the Whig party is the great object of Gov. Seward's efforts, and not the overthrow of slavery; and he is evidently disposed (like all the other Whig leaders) to look with a friendly eye on abolitionism, so long as he imagines that he can thereby bring a grist to the Whig mill. Let no man be said to love the anti-slavery cause, who has any thing else that he considers paramount to it; and especially let it never be said of any one, that he makes the success of the cause the great object of his efforts, while he is supporting a pro-slavery party, and lamenting over the defeat of Henry Clay, the incorrigible slaveholder, and advocate of perpetual slavery. Governor Seward, Mr. Smith adds, by way of compliment, 'can boast of abolitionism in his neighborhood.' If they are no truer to the cause than himself, he had better not boast a great deal.—Liberator.

The Free Press has an abstract of the population of the State, by counties in 1820, 1830, 1834, 1837, and 1840. The whole population of the territory in 1820 was 7,452, of which one half was in Wayne County, and one quarter in Monroe. Oakland County, which is now the most populous in the State, had then 330 inhabitants. In '30, there were no inhabitants enumerated in Jackson County. In 1834, none were found in Livingston, Hillsdale, Lapeer, Genesee, and the northern counties generally.—Another census is to be taken this fall.

The Michigan Argus is informed that we cannot comply with its "very respectful" request to copy into our columns the advertisement which graces its editorial department. A compliance on our part would argue in us an identity of taste and character with the Argus which does not now exist.

The Jackson Patriot says that two companies for working the Copper Mines of Lake Superior, had been formed in that village. It is said that many persons have already made their thousands, rather, we should think, by selling out their "inventions" to other adventurers, than by any actual products of the mines.

The "Morning Watch" has been united with the "Advent Herald," published at Boston. The "Watch," formerly known as the "Midnight Cry," has been published two years and a half, and in that time the publishers say that one million of copies have been issued from the office, and also another million of tracts.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction has appointed the following board of visitors, for the year 1845: Hon. ANDREW HAWLEY, of Detroit. JOHN R. FISLER, M. D. of Niles. GEORGE W. WINNER, Esq. of Pontiac. Gen. HENRY SMITH, of Monroe. Hon. F. J. LITTLETON, of Allegan. The Rev. Dr. Duffield, of Detroit has been engaged to deliver an address before the Literary Societies of the University, on Commencement-day, 8th of August.

At the time of the admission of Florida as a Slave State, there were 27 Whigs in the U. S. Senate—a majority of the whole body. Yet this new Slave State was admitted, only nine Senators voting against it! So much for the zeal of the "true Liberty party" in resisting the Slave Power. Mr. Woodbridge, to his credit, voted nay. But what about Senator Porter, whom his Whig friends would so much rejoice to have as a candidate for Governor. Did Senator Porter vote nay? Will the Advertiser inform us?

ANN ARBOR, Aug. 1, 1845. The Wheat harvest is now completed in this vicinity, and all accounts concur in confirming the previous anticipations of an abundant crop. The New York market is in a very depressed condition.—Michigan Flour was selling there July 26, for \$4.12 1/2 to \$4.25. Fresh Genesee at \$4.31.

The advices from England, which extend to July 4, were favorable up to that time, though much depended on the subsequent weather. Should that be favorable, a heavy yield was expected.

Very little Wheat has been purchased in this market. A few loads come in daily, which bring 56 1/2 cents.

For the Signal of Liberty.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY.

Minutes of the proceedings of the first Liberty Association of the County of St. Clair, held at Palmer, June 30th 1845.

Chose L. P. Wicker, Chairman, and J. H. Dutton, Secretary, and proceeded to receive and adopt a Constitution and to appoint officers of the Association, consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Vigilance Committee of three. Proceeded to chose P. Waterbury, President, O. C. Thompson, Vice President, J. H. Dutton, Secretary.

E. W. Corse, John Vanderbilt, Wm. R. Goodwin, were appointed a Vigilance Committee. J. F. Wicker and J. H. Dutton, were appointed delegates to the State Convention at Marshall, July 9, 1845.

The following were appointed a Committee to draft a preamble to the Constitution and to publish Resolutions: J. H. Dutton, L. F. Wicker, A. Hewett.

The following were appointed a Committee to draft Resolutions for the next meeting: Joseph D. Gilbert, L. I. Wicker, Amos

Hewett. T. Waterbury was invited to address the next meeting.

The meeting then adjourned to Pine River, to meet on the first Monday in October.

J. H. DUTTON, Sec'y.

FOREIGN NEWS.

RUSSIA.

A RUSSIAN COUNT, HIS COUNTESS AND CHILDREN BURNT ALIVE BY THEIR SERFS.—We have received from Southern Russia the news of the tragical end of Count Apraxin, well known for his divorce from his first wife. This gentleman, who treated his serfs with unbecoming cruelty, has, together with his second wife and children fallen a victim to their vengeance. The infuriated people, at midnight, surrounded his castle, and having gutted it of its contents, bound the inmates and set fire to it. The count, who had freed himself, attempted to escape, but was overpowered and beat to death by his savage horde. The first wife of the Count Apraxin had married an Hungarian nobleman, but the Pope would not give consent to this marriage, which besides, was not recognised by law, her first husband being still alive. The catastrophe which has taken place has now however, removed this obstacle, and the union having been sanctioned by the Holy See, the countess has been received at the court of Vienna and by Prince Metternich.—Lebats.

SWEDEN.

The laws lately passed are very unpalatable indeed to the aristocracy. Not only do they extend the political privileges of the people, but one of them provides that family successions shall be equal divided among all the children, and not go, as heretofore, almost exclusively to the eldest son. The effect of this will be, that in the course of time, there will be no aristocracy, for it is the law of primogeniture alone that keeps up the aristocracy.

IRELAND.

The condition of this country is deplorable, indeed. Suffering, of every, and even unheard of grades seems to have driven the masses to desperation, and murders, and other enormous acts are becoming, as it were, too common for surprise. A magistrate, in the county of Cavan, was recently shot, while returning from Church, and the murderer escaped without pursuit.

At the annual fair at Ballinghassings, held on the 26th of June, a fight took place between two persons named Sullivan and Neale, and others having interfered. Sullivan was taken into custody by the police. Symptoms of a rescue having been manifested, the police retired with their prisoner to a building used as a dispensary. Here some stones were thrown, and the mob fired in return. The country people then attacked the house in the rear, and stoned the roof, smashing it in several places. The police fired upon those assembled in front, from the doors and windows of the house, with fatal effect. The mob gave way, and the police retired to their barracks, firing upon those who were collected by the way. It was understood that no warning was given, no magistrate was present, the riot act was not read, and no attempt made to disperse the people either by bayonet charge, or blank cartridge.

Among those killed were J. Coghlan, M. Cockeran, J. Desmond, J. Conway, C. McCarty, Deasy, and a young woman just married, named Johannah Holland. None of the police were dangerously injured, but twenty-five of the country people were wounded, some supposed mortally.

ENGLAND.

The cotton market for the week ending July 8, had been very active—sales for the week 40,000 bales. Prices had not only maintained the quotations of the week previous, but for many descriptions, American and Brazilian included, an advance of 1d per pound had been fully established.

Manufacturers and spinners were actively employed—it is supposed in fulfilling contracts made in anticipation of a good autumn trade.

Money continued easy, accessible on best bills at 2 1/2.

Railways, and railway shares and profits continued to absorb public attention. The list of railway subscribers above \$2,000 recently published by order of Parliament, it is said shows greater liabilities incurred in many quarters, than their "position" warrants.

Chimneys.—Instead of plastering the inside of chimneys in the usual way, take mortar made with one peck of salt to each bushel of lime, adding as much sand and loam as will render it fit to work, then lay on a thick coat. If the chimney has no offsets for the soot to lodge on, it will continue perfectly clean, and free from all danger of taking fire. The writer of this has tried the experiment, and after three years constant use of a chimney plastered as above directed he could never obtain a quart of soot, though he several times employed a sweeper to scrape it from top to bottom. To persons living in the country this will be found valuable.—N. Y. Star.

General Intelligence.

Ninety Years Ago.—The following advertisement is copied from the Pennsylvania Gazette, published in Philadelphia, July 11th, 1775:

GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

Philadelphia, February 14, 1755.

"It having been found very inconvenient to persons concerned in trade, that the mail from Philadelphia to New England sets out but once a fortnight during the winter season; this is to give notice, that the New England mail will henceforth go once a week the year round; whereby correspondence may be carried on, and answers obtained to letters between Philadelphia and Boston in three weeks, which used in the winter to require six weeks.

"By command of the Postmaster-General.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN, Comptroller."

Those who take an interest in the private habits of the Duke of Wellington, declare that to his early rising, a mattress bed, constant exercise in the open air, temperate habits, and the constant use of the cold bath, may be attributed the excellent health he enjoys.

A trial of the monster gun for the Princeton was made on the sands between Crosby and Formly. Three tons of shot were discharged, each weighing upwards of two hundred weight. The report was heard eight or nine miles off.—The Liverpool Albion says:

"The gun was drawn by nine horses. On arriving at its temporary destination, it was firmly embedded in the sand, and the muzzle, which was pointed out to sea, was slightly elevated in a line above the surface of the water. The first ball, weighing 219 lbs was then 'driven home,' the gun being charged with 30 lbs of powder, and the first shot was fired at ten o'clock, in the presence of about five hundred spectators. The result was most satisfactory. The report was deafening, and was distinctly heard nine miles off. At the distance of about three miles, as nearly as could be judged, the ball was seen bounding on the surface of the water, occasionally dipping and springing up again, until at length it became wholly lost to view. The second was the trial shot. Two balls, each weighing 219 lbs. were 'driven home,' 45 lbs of powder being a charge. This shot was equally satisfactory. The report, of course, was terrific, but the gun withstood the shock, and thereby proved that it had been manufactured on a principle and with a material which render 'bursting' almost, if not altogether, an impossibility. A great number of single shots, with balls of 219 lbs. each, were fired during the afternoon of Friday and the whole of Saturday, with the like successful result. It is further stated that the gun will be shortly shipped by a vessel for America, where it is to be taken on board the war steamer for which it was manufactured."

Central Railroad.—The receipts of the road for the month of June are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rec'd from passengers, \$10,412 31; for freight, 4,207 61; for transport U. S. M. 1,061 76; Total \$15,681 71. Rec'd in June 1844, from passengers, \$5,570 85; for freight, 10,798 59; for transport U. S. M. 657 55; Total \$20,026 99. Rec'd in June 1843, from passengers, \$5,999 41; for freight, 8,647 82; Total \$14,647 23.

The Fires of 1845.—We do not remember ever to have heard of so many great fires in any one short period of time as have happened on this continent in the first six months of 1845. We annex a list of the losses experienced, in the order in which they occurred.

Table with 2 columns: Location and Loss. Barbadoes, \$2,000,000; Pittsburgh, 3,500,000; London, Cont., 500,000; Fayetteville, 500,000; Quebec, 7,000,000; Matanzas, 1,000,000; New York, 6,000,000; Total, \$21,000,000. This aggregate surpasses the loss by the great fire in this city in 1835. Then about \$20,000,000 of property was destroyed.—N. Y. Herald.

Cap-Stone.—Thousands of spectators stood gazing, yesterday afternoon, to see the work men hoist the cap and topmost stone to its place on the pinnacle of the spire of Trinity church, now two hundred and eighty feet from the ground. The men at the top looked like Lilliputians, and the mere sight of beholding persons working so high in air, and at such imminent peril, made the spectators dizzy. In a few days the scaffolding of this exquisitely beautiful spire will be taken down, and the whole work will be seen in all its grandeur. It is not generally known that the tower, from bottom to top, is solid stone with not a single inch of wood. The weight is therefore enormous. It is a subject of great congratulation, that up to this time, although men have worked in imminent peril, and one false step or movement would be fatal, there has not been the slightest accident.—New York Express.

A Compliment.—The Boston Yankee says of Lydia Maria Child: "Every thing that has fallen from the pen of this writer has been well received, whether it treat on the formation of a world or an apple dumpling."

The Congress springs at Saratoga, is said to be one of the most productive pieces of property in the Union. It yields an income of \$20,000; its waters are bottled in vast quantities, and it is sent to every portion of the civilized world, and more recently to China.

Bad sometimes the Best.—A gentleman riding in a stage coach, annoyed his fellow passengers by an incessant cough. "That is a bad cough," said one of the inmates, almost in anger. "Yes," replied the sufferer, "but it is the best I have got."

A large supply of the Nitrate of Potash has recently been discovered on the coast of Africa. Some 20 vessels have sailed from England for the Coast. Nothing has caused equal excitement in London since the discovery of gunpowder.

EXECUTION OF MCCURRY.

Henry W. McCurry was hung by the neck, on Friday, the 27th ult., at Baltimore. 'Tis a law of that State that execution shall be private, yet such was the anxiety of the people to witness the revolting spectacle, that the gallows were erected of sufficient height to enable those who were without the prison yard to behold it. Fifteen or twenty thousand persons were present, many of whom were women and children.

The effect of the execution on the multitudes is thus described by the Baltimore correspondent of the Boston Atlas, who is, as will be seen, in favor of hanging. He says:

"The scene at this moment, (the time of the execution) was a mournful exhibition of the depravity of the human heart. Every eminence which commanded a view of the gallows, was crowded with men, women and children. Every window, from which the spectacle of a human being suffering the pangs of death could be seen, was filled with eager and anxious faces. Men led their sons up, almost to the foot of the gallows. Women, with their children in their arms, and with daughters at their side, pressed foremost in the eager throng. The young girl, 'who would have screamed to see a spider crawl, was there to see a human being die.' Vice stalked forth in its gaudy and vulgar attire; and side by side, went with it, those who were taught the lessons of virtue, and hoped they practiced them.

And in the midst of the crowd, whilst they were anxiously waiting for the death scene, and even whilst the poor man hung between heaven and earth, and his soul was struggling in the pangs of mortality, rude jests were passed around; horrid oaths were uttered; and contentions and quarrels, and even fights, were going on. I hear this from one whose official relations made it his duty to be present, for I have not the manhood that can look upon such spectacles. And this scene the law requires to be enacted, that the moral effect of an execution may not be lost! Twenty thousand people must be gathered—as were gathered to-day—at the hanging of a poor criminal, that the dreadful fate of the murderer may produce its proper and salutary influence on the depraved and wicked! What short-sighted policy! The spectators of to-day were drawn to the spot by a principle which increases by what it feeds on. No one went there and returned a better or a wiser man. If men must be put to death—and that they must see have the warrant of the Great Being himself—let it be done only to vindicate justice, not to gratify the morbid taste.—Hangingman.

From the U. S. Journal, we learn that a most shocking accident occurred at Washington on the evening of the 4th. A half dozen of rockets, after having been ignited, took a horizontal direction, and went plunging through the crowd, like so many fiery messengers of death. One, passing by the heads of a pair of horses, attached to a carriage, frightened them, and they ran at full speed directly through the dense assemblage. Another of the rockets struck a negro woman upon the breast, penetrating just below the shoulder blade, and causing her death, which took place the ensuing day. A third, after passing its fiery course for a quarter of a mile, struck and killed, instantly, a gentleman named Knowles, who was sitting, with his newly wedded wife, secure as he supposed from all possible danger. The Journal describes the lamentations of the poor woman thus instantaneously reduced from happiness to widowhood, as most heart-rending.—Pilot.

It is said that a first-rate man-of-war, of the present day, requires upwards of 70,000 cubic feet of timber, and 180,000 lbs. of hemp are used in the cordage. It is estimated that the extent of ground on which the timber for a ninety gun ship would grow would be fifty acres.

Onderdonkdom.—The Trustees of the General Episcopal Theological Seminary have decided by a vote of forty one to eleven, to continue Bishop Onderdonk, a convicted libertine, in the office of "Professor of the nature, ministry and policy of the church!" Alas for public morality!—Morn. Star.

A CARD.

The August examination of the Misses Clark's school, will commence on the 4th, and close on the 7th.

MONDAY, the 4th. From 8 o'clock A. M. to 12—the recitations in Juvenile classes—Botany and Spelling, Natural Philosophy, and Geography of the Heavens. Two o'clock P. M. to 6. Modern History of the world. Geometry and Algebra. Latin, and Intellectual Philosophy. Music.

TUESDAY, the 5th. From 8 o'clock A. M. to 12. Juvenile class in Reading. Chemistry. The three classes in Davies' Arithmetic, and Mitchell's Geography. Music.

Two o'clock P. M. to 6. Rhetoric. Moral Philosophy. French and American History.—Music.

THURSDAY, the 7th. From 8 o'clock A. M. to 12. Grammar.—Logic. Botany and Philosophy.

Half past 2 o'clock P. M. to 6. Music and reading the original compositions—observation. Our Summer ramble. Day dreams. The rain bow only seen through the storm. Page from Comic Almanac of 1800. Beauty. The Moravians or the tragedy of "the beautiful Spring."—The power of music. A lesson from small things "The white rose of England"—A historical sketch. Yesterday, to-day and to-morrow.—Action. Reading report of the school. Giving certificates to graduates. Reading 24th No. of vol. 6th of "The Wild Flower"—a semi-monthly periodical of the school. Reaching the valedictory.

MARY H. CLARK, Principal. Ann Arbor, Aug. 1845.

DEDICATION.

The Dedication of the Catholic Church in the Village of Ann Arbor, will take place on the 6th of August. A collection will be taken up on the occasion, in order to liquidate the debts contracted for the erection of said building. A sermon will be delivered by Rev. Mr. McLaughlin on that day. Ann Arbor, July 27, 1845.

SHIAWASSEE AND CLINTON CONVENTION.

CHANGE OF TIME AND PLACE.

Misses. Editors:—Since the notice was handed to you for the Convention to meet at the house of Cyrus Miller, the Committee of both counties have had a conference, and have concluded to change the time and place, in view of accommodating a greater number of persons. It will therefore be held at the house of Dr. Long on the Grand River Road on the 20th of August; the Convention to be opened at 10 o'clock A. M. The committee confidently expect to see Mr. Birney, C. H. Stewart and several other distinguished speakers present on the occasion.

And we earnestly entreat every liberal man, in the two counties, to consecrate one day in the year in behalf of the down trodden of our land; to greet each other face to face, exchange friendly salutations; and pledge ourselves anew to each other, to God and to the suffering victim of American oppression—that we will never cease our efforts until every bond shall be broken, and every slave a free man.

Some time during the Convention a candidate for Representative to the Legislature, will be nominated to be supported at the November election.

J. B. PARNES, } Com. for Shiawassee Co. R. W. HAWLEY, } } Munnis' Kenny, } } Committee for JOSEPH SEVER, } Clinton Co. Owasso, July 28, 1845.

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT MEETING.

The Preachers and Delegates appointed within the bounds of the Ann Arbor District, are respectfully requested to meet in Ypsilanti on the 17th of September next at 11 o'clock. Come up, dear brethren, prepared to respond to the following inquiries:

- 1. Shall the Circuits within our bounds be divided? If so, where shall these divisions be made?
2. What number of preachers shall we employ within our bounds next year, and how much can be raised upon each Circuit, for their support?
W. P. ESLER, Ch'n.

ANN ARBOR QUARTERLY MEETING.

Will be held at Carpenter's Corners, in the town of Pinfield on the 7th and 8th of September next. Services will commence on Saturday at 11 o'clock. A general attendance of all our ministers, members, and friends, is earnestly requested. W. P. ESLER.

RECEIPTS FOR THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY FOR THE PRESENT WEEK.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Benjamin Rogers, \$1.00 to 247, Jan. 19, 1845; J. Pierce, 1.00 to 245, Jan. 6, 1845; E. C. Salisbury, 1.50 to 274, July 25, 1845; T. Burbanck, 1.00 to 274, July 25, 1845; J. Jones, 1.00 to 275, Aug. 1, 1845.

NOTICE.

The Rev. Geo. Duffield D. D. will address the Literary Societies of the University of Michigan, on Wednesday next, at four o'clock P. M. in the Presbyterian Church.

NOTICE.

The Michigan annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church will by the leave of divine providence meet at Ann Arbor on the eighth day of October next at 10 o'clock A. M. MARCUS SWIFT, Pres't. Plymouth, July 24th, 1845.

"OH! MY HEAD," exclaimed a friend of ours the other day, "it will split." We advised him to try Sherman's Cough Lozenges—he sent at once and got a box, and one lozenge gave him entire relief in ten minutes. We have been surprised at the quickness of its operation. Phlegm, sea-sickness, looseness of spirits, and the "horrors," so well known by those who dissipate, are speedily cured by them. This is the age of doing things—Dr. Sherman gives us lozenges that are pleasant, and at the same time more effectual than any other medicine. His cough lozenges break up the worst cases in a few hours—even consumption, whooping-cough, and asthma, yield to them when nothing else ever alleviates. So great has become his reputation, that many have attempted to make imitations, but they cannot make them like Sherman's therefore they cannot sell them except to the injury. Dr. Sherman's warehouse is at No. 106 Nassau street—N. Y.

W. S. & J. W. MAYNARD, Agents, for Ann Arbor.

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ALWAYS ON HAND. THE Subscriber has moved his shop to Main Street...

JEWELRY. Fancy articles, which he intends to sell...

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