

# THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

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

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, JAN. 29, 1844.

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## THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY

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## CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN JUDGE KING OF OHIO, AND JAMES G. BIRNEY, OF MICHIGAN.

WARREN, TRUMBULL CO., O. }  
September 18, 1843. }  
To James G. Birney and  
Thomas Morris, Esqrs.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I have seized the first leisure moment since my return home to discharge the duty assigned me by the National Liberty Convention, recently assembled in Buffalo, of apprising you of the result of its deliberations.

That Convention, comprising some six or seven hundred delegates from twelve of the free States of this Union, embracing men of all professions, many of whom had been long conspicuous for their high moral character, general intelligence, and ardent zeal in the cause of human liberty, was convened for the purpose of discussing the great and essential principles of civil and religious freedom upon which our government was declared to have been established, and their relative duties under it, as well as to designate their choice of candidates for the two highest official stations in this republic.

After an animated and interesting discussion of a series of resolutions reported by a Committee, and their unanimous adoption by the convention, a committee was appointed by and from the delegates in attendance from the respective States, equal to the electoral vote of each State represented, to designate candidates to be presented to the American people for their suffrages for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States in 1844, who thereupon proceeded to discharge that duty by ballot, when on counting the votes, it appeared that one hundred and forty-eight votes had been given, each one of which had designated JAMES G. BIRNEY as their choice for President, and THOMAS MORRIS for Vice President.

The announcement of this unanimous concentration of public opinion for the two highest offices in the gift of the people, upon two individuals distinguished for their intelligence, integrity, patriotic devotion to the cause of liberty, and the rights of man, and their steadfast adherence to principle, while so many around them had faltered in their course, was received with the most intense interest and animated manifestations of joy and gladness by the assembled multitude, and when the question was submitted for their concurrence and approval, the thousands in attendance seemed to rise simultaneously to their feet, responsive to the call.

Permit me, Gentlemen, to congratulate you, and our common country upon these auspicious events in connexion with others which are daily transpiring before our eyes, which mark the steady progress of the principles of liberty, justice and humanity, in resisting the encroachments of arbitrary power, overthrowing the barbarous systems of slavery which have been established and maintained by despotic power for centuries, and in restoring the human race to their natural and inalienable rights in our own country and throughout the world.

If we look abroad, we have abundant cause for congratulation in the triumph of these principles. Under the British Government we have witnessed the long and ardent conflict between them, and avarice, injustice and oppression, in which the champions of freedom, led on by the immortal Wilberforce, steadily persevered in their efforts amid all the obloquy and contempt which were cast upon them by those in power & place, until their labors were crowned with triumphant success.

We have seen that distinguished patriot and statesman rise in his place in parliament year after year, undismayed by the scoffs and jeers of his colleagues, and those holding official stations, under the government, and present the petitions of the people for the interdiction of the slave trade, and the abolishment of slavery.

We have seen these propositions assailed for ten years in succession by the whole power and influence of that government, as "hypocritical, visionary, and

delusive," as inevitably leading to "insurrections, massacre, and ruin," and that the abolishment of slavery and the slave trade would be "the death warrant of every white inhabitant in the islands." We have seen the populace without excited to acts of intimidation and abuse against him in the city of London under the immediate eye of the government. We have heard his motives impeached, his character traduced, his objects contemned and himself denounced in the House of Lords by the Duke of Clarence, the son of the reigning monarch, as a "hypocrite and fanatic."

But we have lived to see this same Duke of Clarence afterwards ascend the throne of England, and, in obedience to the popular will, yield his royal assent to an act for the abolishment of slavery throughout his dominions. We have at a subsequent period heard the slave trade denounced by the whole civilized world as piracy, and prohibited by our own government under the severest penalties known to our criminal laws. We have seen the republics of South America, one after another, discarding this inhuman system from their constitutions and laws, and with one dash of the pen restoring their fellow beings to the blessings of liberty. We have recently heard it proclaimed by one of the sovereigns of Barbary, that he had emancipated the slaves in his dominion for the honor of God and the dignity of human nature.

Since the commencement of the present century we have witnessed the abolishment of slavery in more than thirty governments and dependencies, in many of which it had been longer maintained, and embraced a larger portion of the population than it does in either of the States of this Union at the present time, and yet it has always been effected peaceably, quietly, safely and without the shedding of blood. And in every instance, it is believed, that the results have proved highly satisfactory to the communities immediately interested in the event—who now hail it as fraught with innumerable blessings to all.

Such are the tidings which greet us from abroad to gladden our hearts, animate our hopes, and stimulate our efforts in resisting the encroachments upon our constitutional rights and privileges at home. Nor are we without evidences of recent changes in the public mind, evincive of a determination on the part of the people to maintain their liberties unimpaired, protect their rights as freemen, and restore the government to its constitutional duties and obligations, from which it has so strangely departed since its first organization.

A brief review of our past history will show the principles by which our ancestors were actuated and guided in dissolving their connexion with the British government, and instituting the one under which we live. Amongst the prominent causes which impelled them to the separation, and which had been the subject of repeated complaint and remonstrance to the British crown, was the establishment and continuance by royal authority of the revolting system of African Slavery contrary to the wishes of the American people. So odious had that system become to the colonies, and so determined were they to check its further progress, that the first American Congress in October 1774, entered into the following compact.

"We for ourselves and the inhabitants of the several colonies whom we represent, firmly agree and associate under the sacred ties of virtue, honor and love of our country as follows: we will neither import nor purchase any slaves imported after the first day of December next, after which time we will wholly discontinue the slave trade, and we will neither be concerned in it ourselves, nor will we hire our vessels, nor sell our commodities or manufactures to those who are concerned in it."

The declaration of Independence, which soon succeeded these colonial acts, after averring that all men were created equal, that they were endowed by their Creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that whenever any form of government became destructive of these ends, it was the right and duty of the people to alter or abolish it, solemnly pledges the honor and faith of the nation to support and maintain these principles. The original draught of that memorable Declaration, as written by Jefferson, contained the following additional charge against the British sovereignty.

"He had waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, capturing and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, the warfare of the christian King of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where men should be brought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or restrain this execrable commerce."

These acts of the people through their

representatives evinced their settled hostility to the system of slavery, & firm determination to eradicate it from the country. The revolutionary struggle was commenced to establish and maintain the principles proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, and an appeal was made to the just sympathies of mankind, and the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of their intentions, and the righteousness of their cause. To sustain them, the friends of liberty and humanity from all quarters of the globe rallied to the American standard, and fought and bled by the side of Washington and his compatriots, until our independence was secured.—

Having thus accomplished the first grand object of their desire, they sought to crown their labors by the formation of a government which should permanently secure to the people the rights and immunities for which they had so long and valiantly contended. Delegates were appointed by the several States to whom this high and responsible trust was committed, who proceeded to discharge that duty by the formation of our present Constitution. The preamble to that instrument declares that it was ordained "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." No specific power being granted to Congress to abolish slavery in the States where it then existed under their local laws, it was left to their separate action, under the strongest manifestations of national disapprobation and enlightened public opinion. Beyond the jurisdiction of such local laws, however Congress did effectually interpose its authority to check, control, abolish, and prohibit it. One of the first acts of Congress after the adoption of the Constitution was the re-enactment of the celebrated Ordinance of 1787, by a unanimous vote, by which slavery was abolished in the north western Territory, and forever prohibited from polluting its soil, either under Territorial or State jurisdiction.—

Slavery had previously been extended into that Territory while under the jurisdiction of Virginia, and the question was afterwards raised by the slaveholders, and carried to Congress and the judicial tribunals to determine its constitutionality where its validity was sustained. Acts were also passed by Congress 1798 in 1804, prohibiting the importation of slaves into the Territories of Mississippi and Orleans from abroad under heavy penalties, and declaring all such persons to be free. In this manner did the first Congress under the constitution, many of its members having participated in framing that instrument, proceed with perfect unanimity to carry out its powers, and determine the future policy of the government in regard to slavery. It declared by its acts in prohibiting and interdicting it in the only Territory under its jurisdiction, that slavery should not be extended or sustained by its authority, wherever it could be constitutionally reached by its power. It also gave its countenance and approbation to the numerous abolition societies which were extensively organized in the several States for the avowed object of influencing public opinion, and effecting the extinguishment of slavery throughout the Union; and down to as late a period as 1809, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by a resolution of that body, was directed to return a letter of thanks to an abolition convention for the presentation of Clarkson's History of Slavery, which was directed to be deposited in the Congressional library. At the head of these abolition societies were placed the most prominent and influential statesmen, under whose influence, and the co-operation of the government and the people, a majority of the states carried out the principles and policy adopted by the nation, by expelling this execrable institution from their borders. These measures received the hearty concurrence and support of every distinguished patriot and Statesman. Washington, in his correspondence, declared that slavery certainly might and ought to be abolished by legislative authority, and that so far as his suffrage would go in effecting that object, it should never be wanting. Passing down the stream of time, we soon reach a point in our history when these great and fundamental principles were lost sight of or disregarded—when the whole moral and political power of the government and people seem so have been surrendered up to an influence hostile to liberty—when the extension and perpetuation of slavery, the enhancement of its power, and the promotion of its interests appear to have become the settled policy and paramount object of the government.

Under this baneful influence, the principles and policy of the government have been radically changed, and its powers prostituted to establish, extend, foster, and encourage this infamous traffic in human

flesh by land and sea. By its authority, slavery has been extended over Territories under its jurisdiction in utter disregard of the spirit and policy of the laws unadoptionally adopted by Congress, and approved by Washington; and these Territories have been subsequently admitted into the Union as Slave States until they outnumber the original States in which slavery is sustained. Having thus increased their power they have wisely proceeded to carry out their ultimate design, as disclosed by a slaveholding politician of North Carolina to "give law to the government," by keeping the free states divided upon minor matters and contending about the "spoils of victory." In accordance with this design they have secured the Executive power with its immense patronage four fifths of the time, by which they have monopolized the most important offices under the government. By securing the Speaker of the House of Representatives they have exercised a controlling influence over the Legislative power for the last quarter of a century; and by an unequal and disingenuous division of the circuits of the Supreme Court, by throwing New York, Connecticut and Vermont, containing a representative population equal to forty-two members into one circuit, and Ohio and Indiana, Illinois and Michigan with forty-one members into another, and balancing one of them with Louisiana and Alabama with eleven members, and the other with Mississippi and Arkansas with five members only, they have secured the control of the Judicial power by thus obtaining a majority of the Judges. Nor does the injustice and partiality of this discriminating policy rest here. Notwithstanding the great disparity of population and business requiring the interposition of courts in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, the salaries of the District Judges in each of these States is fixed by Congress at one thousand dollars while those of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas range from two to three thousand dollars each. The same partial & discriminating course of legislation in favor of slavery & the productions of slave labor is perceptible in every department of the government—in our treaties with foreign powers—in the appointment of foreign agents—in the appropriations of money, and in affording protection, and securing markets abroad for the surplus productions of the country. In a late address of a member of Congress from Maryland, the following facts have been disclosed. "We may establish by treaty or adjust by law such relations with foreign powers as shall exclude nine tenths of all our products from their ports for the sake of gaining some special favor in behalf of one of our products; or we may quietly submit to regulations of trade which will produce the same effect. This is precisely what we have done in regard to our cotton in our relations with England. Our treaties with France especially and our tariff, have favored their silks, wines, and worsted goods, for the sake of our cotton. That interest has alone remained in the full possession of all the direct protection it was in the power of the government to confer upon it."

All these unwarrantable pervasions of the power of the general government from its legitimate functions, to extend by its authority the system of slavery beyond its original limits, enhance its power and influence, and foster and promote its interests at home and abroad at the sacrifice of all others, we have been for the last ten years urging upon the notice of the government and people. We have invoked their consideration of its unconstitutionality, danger, impolicy, immorality, injustice, guilt, disgrace and expense. We have appealed to the government by petitions, signed by more than three hundred thousand citizens, to repeal their own laws by which alone slavery was sustained in the District of Columbia and the Territory of Florida. Our petitions have been spurned and rejected, our representatives gagged, insulted, and threatened with indictments in the legislative hall, and virtually expelled from congress. We have appealed to the religious communities of the country, to the guardians of public virtue and morals, and we have been told it was strictly a political question, that would distract the churches, and therefore it would be inexpedient to take any action upon the subject, other than to close their doors against any discussion of it. We have appealed to the two great political parties which have so long divided and distracted the country, and they inform us it is emphatically a moral question that should not be brought into politics to mar the peace and harmony of the two parties, at this important crisis, when they are so nearly equally divided, and have the more important questions to settle, whether we are to have a revenue tariff for incidental protection, or an incidental protection tariff for revenue; and whether we are to be blest or cursed with a Fiscal agent

Bank, a Sub-Treasury Bank or an Exchequer Bank to furnish the country with a currency; and whether we are to have a man who thinks that the best state of society which can be formed is where slavery exists, or one who says that two hundred years legislation has sanctioned and sanctified negro slaves as property—or a northern man with southern principles, or one who is said by the leaders of both to have no principles at all, for the next chief magistrate of the freest government on earth.

When all these momentous questions shall have been fairly disposed of and some others of minor importance, we have been assured by individuals of both political parties, that whichever should be defeated on these cardinal points now in issue between them, that they would take this subject into serious consideration, and if by incorporating these obsolete principles and measures of our forefathers into their political creed, they could regain their lost power, and standing with the people, they certainly would attend to it. In the meantime it is urged upon us with much sympathetic feeling and zeal, that we should adhere to them politically until this great crisis is past, and concentrate all our energies in discussing the moral bearings of slavery upon society, by showing upon all proper occasions its wickedness and enormities, except upon the Sabbath, when it would be manifestly improper to speak of national crimes and political sins, or the moral duties of citizens. Disregarding all these specious counsels of the Abolitionists and pro-slavery abolitionists of the day, we have conscientiously pursued our course and imitated the examples and followed "in the footsteps of our illustrious predecessors," the patriots of the revolution, in forming societies to revive their principles, inculcate their precepts, promulgate their doctrines, and carry out their measures, which were once sanctioned and sustained by the whole American people. We have firmly believed with the framers of the Constitution of the State of Ohio, "That a frequent recurrence to the fundamental principles of civil government is absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty. That the people have the right to assemble together in a peaceable manner to consult for their common good, and to apply to the legislature for a redress of grievances, and that every citizen has an indisputable right to speak, write, or print upon any subject, as he thinks proper, being liable for the abuse of that liberty."

For exercising these constitutional rights, disseminating these fundamental principles, and carrying out these measures, we have been assailed, denounced, proscribed, and imprisoned, our characters aspersed, our motives impugned, our meetings interrupted by violence, our printing presses demolished, our houses and property plundered and burnt, and our correspondence through the post office department violated and suppressed. Criminal indictments have been found against us by foreign tribunals, and demands made under them for our apprehension and delivery by the Executive power of States which we had never visited. Large rewards have been offered by sovereign States and communities for our lawless capture and delivery to their power. All the formalities and securities of law, all the sacred rights, privileges and immunities guaranteed by the constitution of our country to all its citizens, have been openly violated in our persons, property and pursuits. Lawless violence against us has been tolerated, if not excited and encouraged by public authorities and judicial tribunals, under the influence of which we have been virtually outlawed, our lives and property subjected to the tender mercies of remorseless, unrestrained mobs, and our blood shed with impunity. All these outrages and indignities have been cast upon us under the false and slanderous imputations that we were hostile to the Union, and meditated its dissolution, that we were urging Congress to interpose its authority for the abolishment of slavery in the States, that we were instigating the slaves of the South to insurrection and violence, and that all our views, proceedings and measures were revolutionary, treasonable and wicked. During all which time our principles and objects were openly avowed, and our proceedings published to the world in refutation of these calumnies. We have also the concurrent testimony of others to refute these slanderous misrepresentations, which were daily published and sent abroad by most of the political and many of the religious publications of the day. The following extracts taken from a letter to a gentleman in Georgia, written for publication by the Hon. Daniel Webster under date of 1833, on the subject of these misrepresentations and alarming reports, contain a complete refutation of them.

"In my opinion, the domestic slavery of the southern States is a subject within the exclusive control of the States themselves, and this I am sure is the opinion of the whole North. Congress has no authority to interfere in the emancipation of slaves, or in the treatment of them in any of the States. I cannot say that particular individuals might not be found who suppose that Congress may possess some power or over the subject, but I do not know any such persons, and if there are any, I am sure they are very few. The imputations which you say, and say truly, are constantly made against the North are, in my opinion, entirely destitute of any just foundation."

Mr. Webster was a resident of Boston, surrounded by abolitionists, where their meetings were publicly held, where their press was established to disseminate their principles and carry out their measures, yet when appealed to for information on the subject, he declares in his opinion these imputations to be without any just foundation. The following extract from the Boston Commercial Gazette in 1835

will also show that the guilt of abolitionists consisted in discussing the subject of slavery. "Free discussion on the subject of slavery?—oh, as Petruchio said, 'there's the villainy.'—The mischief falls in a nutshell. A free discussion on this subject leads at once to abolition and emancipation." These were the evils to be deprecated from the action of the abolitionists in Boston, instead of treason and revolution. It was free discussion on the subject of slavery in view of such results as voluntary emancipation, that constituted the "villany and mischief" of the abolitionists in the eyes of the good people of Boston for which they were assailed by mobs, their meetings suppressed by violence, and one of their prominent citizens dragged through their streets with a rope about his neck, and cast into prison. The publications of the South also exonerate them from the slanderous charges of their neighbors. The Southern Review, one of their ablest periodicals, makes the following statement:

"We do not believe that the abolitionists intend, nor could they if they would, excite our slaves to insurrection. We believe that we have most to fear from their organized action upon the consciences and fears of the slaveholders themselves, from the insinuation of their dangerous heresies into our schools, our pulpits and domestic circles. It is only by aiming the consciences of the weak and feeble, and diffusing among our own people a morbid sensibility on the question of slavery that the abolitionists can accomplish their object. Preparatory to this, they are now laboring to saturate the non-slaveholding States with the belief that slavery is a sin against God; that the 'national compact' involves the non-slaveholders in that sin; and that it is their duty to toil and suffer that our country may be delivered from what they term its blackest stain, its foulest reproach, its deadliest sin."

The same opinions in regard to our principles and objects have been freely avowed by most of the politicians and statesmen of the South; that we were laboring to bring public opinion to bear against the institution of slavery "which it would be almost impossible to resist without separating themselves from the social system of the rest of the civilized world." And when we as frankly admit that these objects are necessarily embraced by our principles and policy in resisting the encroachments of the Slave Power upon our most sacred rights and privileges, and our important interests—when it has been openly avowed by its policy, and declared by southern Statesmen that "If the slaveholding states be true to themselves they can give law to the government," do we assume positions in defiance of these constitutional rights hostile to the union, or incompatible with our duties as citizens? Do we inculcate sentiments at variance with the spirit of our laws, the genius of our free institutions, the declared policy of our government, or the principles of our ancestors, the framers of the constitution? By referring back to "the times which tried men's souls," to that momentous period in our history, when virtue, patriotism, the love of justice and the general welfare of the whole people were duly appreciated, when our public men and rulers felt the weight of their responsibility to their country, to the world, to posterity and to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, we find these now obnoxious sentiments pervading all their public documents, advocating their public councils, and inculcated by public men of all professions, as essential to national peace and prosperity, and the perpetuity of our free institutions. Of our public men no one took a more decided and active part in discussing the subject of slavery, or made greater exertions to effect its extinguishment in the country, or left a stronger testimony against its danger, impolicy, and wickedness than Mr. Jefferson. His draft of a constitution for the State of Virginia provided for the emancipation of slaves in 1800 by declaring his birth after that time should be free. He addressed a letter to Doct. Price, an Abolitionist of London, who had written a treatise upon slavery, asking him to address an exhortation on the subject of the abolition of slavery to the young men of William and Mary's college in Virginia, who were preparing for public life, hoping it might be decisive of the question in that State, which he declared would be the State where the interesting spectacle would be presented of justice in conflict with avarice and oppression. In reply to a letter from Gov. Coles, of Illinois, who it seems had urged him to renew his exertions in the cause of emancipation, under date of August, 1814, he declares that "the hour of emancipation, is advancing in the march of time. This enterprise is for the young, for those who can follow it up and bear it through to its consummation. It shall have all my prayers, and these are the only weapons of an old man. It is an encouraging observation that no good measure was ever proposed which if duly pursued, failed to prevail in the end. And you will be supported by the religious precept 'be not weary in well doing.'"

In his notes on Virginia he uses the following emphatic language in describing its injustice, impolicy and danger:

"It is a problem which I give to the master to solve, whether the religious precepts against the violation of property were not framed for him as well as his slave? And whether the slave may not as justifiably take a little from one who has taken all from him, as he may slay one who would slay him? And with what execration should the statesman be loaded who, permitting one half the citizens thus to trample on the rights of the other, transforms those into despots and these into enemies, destroys the morals of the one part and the amor patriae of the other? And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be

isolated but with his wrath. Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever; that considering numbers, nature and natural means only, a revolution of the wheel of fortune, an exchange of situation is among possible events: that it may become probable by supernatural interference. The Almighty has no attribute which cantake sides with us in such a contest."

William Pinckney in the House of Delegates of Maryland in 1789 declared the following sentiments:

"Wherefore should we confine the edg of censure to our ancestors, or those from whom they purchased? Are we not equally guilty? They sowed around the seeds of slavery—we cherish and sustain the growth. They introduced the system—we enlarge, invigorate and confirm it. Its continuance is as shameful as its origin. By the eternal principles of natural justice, no master in the State has a right to hold his slave in bondage for a single hour. Sir, the thing is impolitic; never will your country be productive; never will its agriculture, its commerce, or its manufactures flourish so long as they depend on reluctant bondmen for their progress."

Mr. Madison also, in a speech made in the first Congress after the adoption of the Constitution affirmed—"It is a necessary duty of the General Government to protect every part of the empire against danger as well infernal as external. Every thing, therefore, which tends to increase this danger, though it may be a local affair, yet if it involves national expense or safety, it becomes of concern to every part of the Union, and is a proper subject for the consideration of those charged with the general administration of the government."

The most eminent divines of that day also considered it a part of their duty to participate in the discussions upon this subject. Doct. Hopkins, a distinguished divine of New England, in an address to slaveholders in 1776 asserted that—"slavery is in every instance wrong, unrighteous, and oppressive—a very great and crying sin, their being nothing of the kind equal to it on the face of the whole earth." President Edwards, in a sermon delivered before an abolition society in Connecticut, in 1791, affirmed his belief, that "within fifty years from this time it will be as shameful for a man to hold a negro slave as to be guilty of common robbery or theft." John Wesley declared that the traffic in slaves was the "sum of all villainies—that he read of nothing like it in the heathen world, ancient or modern." Adam Clark, the author of the celebrated Commentaries on the Bible, expresses himself as follows: "How can a nation pretend to fast or worship God at all ordare profess that they believe in the existence of such a Being while they carry on the slave trade, and traffic in the souls, blood, and bodies of men." Such were the views entertained by men of all professions and denominations in regard to the danger, impolicy, and guilt of slavery, as it existed in this country. The patriot and statesman, the philanthropist and divine, the guardians of public liberty and morals, were all united in their exertions to exterminate this moral and political evil from the country. The esteemed it a duty to "saturate" their schools, colleges, churches, legislatures and domestic circles with the belief that slavery was a national crime, offensive to God, and destructive of the safety, happiness, and prosperity of the people. Nor can there be found in all the writings of modern abolitionists, or Liberty men, expressions as strong of their utter abhorrence and detestation of the system, as were constantly used by the most eminent statesmen and divines of that period. And yet they have been regarded as the great "Apostles of Liberty," and their characters held in the highest veneration and respect by the whole American people.

It has been also charged against us, that we have declared we will not regard the Constitution and the laws made in pursuance of its authority. Let us examine for a moment the foundation for this assertion. It is true that many of us have believed and contended, that the construction given to that clause in the Constitution in relation to fugitives from service, and the assumption by Congress of exclusive legislation over the subject and the law of Congress of 1793, in attempting to enforce that construction, by authorizing the seizure of any person without warrant, and forcibly taking him to any Town or County Magistrate, and procuring a certificate from such magistrate, which will authorize him to be carried to the most distant State in the Union, without the power or hope of redress, to be unconstitutional and void. Because we find no such power delegated to Congress, and such seizures without warrant supported by oath or affirmation, strictly prohibited by the Constitution. Because it violates the provisions of the constitution securing the right of trial by jury, and deprives a person of the benefit of the writ of habeas corpus. Nor are these

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opinions without high authority to sustain them. Almost every free State in the Union has sustained them by legislating on the subject—some going so far as to prohibit their magistrates under heavy penalties from exercising these extraordinary and despotic powers. The highest judicial officer in the State of New York appears also to have imbibed the same disorganizing opinion in the trial of a cause before him.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the cause.

"The decision of the court below is put upon the ground that Congress not only has the power to legislate upon this subject, but that their legislation must necessarily be exclusive in relation to this matter. If the decision of this cause turned upon these questions, I am not prepared to say that Congress has the power under the Constitution to make the certificate of a State magistrate conclusive of the right of the claimant to remove a native born citizen of that State to a distant part of the Union, so as to deprive him of the benefit of a writ of habeas corpus and the right of trial by jury in the State where he is found. I am one of those who have the habit of believing that the State legislatures had the general powers to pass laws upon all subjects, except those on which they were restricted by the Constitution of the United States, or their own local Constitutions, and that Congress had no power to legislate on any subject, except so far as the power was delegated to it by the Constitution. I have looked in vain among the powers delegated to Congress by the Constitution for any general authority to that body to legislate on this subject. It certainly is not contained in any express grant of power, and it does not appear to be embraced in the general grant of incidental powers contained in the last clause of the Constitution relative to the powers of Congress. The law of Congress respecting fugitives from justice and fugitive slaves is not a law to carry into effect any of the powers expressly granted to Congress or any of the powers vested by the Constitution in the government of the United States, or any department or officer thereof."

Similar decisions, it is believed, have also been made by the highest judicial tribunals of others of the States. The question involved is one of vital importance. It is no less than to determine whether Congress has the power to set aside all the forms of law which have been established for centuries, to transcend all the prohibitions and restraints, and annihilate all the securities contained in the Constitution and in the decisions of judicial questions—whether all the rights, privileges and immunities guaranteed to the people by that sacred instrument, must be held in abeyance, and become subordinate to the superior demands of slavery upon the government for protection—Whether the right of trial by jury, the writ of habeas corpus, of personal exemption from lawless seizure without warrant, oath, or affirmation, must all be suspended during the investigation of these paramount claims for service and labor. It should be well understood, that neither the Constitution, nor the law of 1793, makes any distinction of persons, but embraces cases of indenture and apprenticeships, and reaches the acknowledged freeman as well as the reputed slave, the white as well as the colored population. Indeed, in all cases where they would be claimed as slaves, the question at issue would always be, whether they were freemen or slaves, whether lawful residents or fugitives from service. To suppose that none but slaves could be brought under the provisions of this sanguinary and despotic law, would be doing violence to our senses, and contravening all our experience and observation. Numerous instances have occurred where persons have been thus seized and carried to distant States under such certificates, who have there under the disabilities and obstructions thrown in their way, substantiated their claims to freedom; and yet the certificate operated as a warrant for the act, and left the person without redress.

It first assumes to establish the character and condition of persons by accusation, and determines the very question in issue for the purpose of settling the mode by which it should be tried. In other cases also arising under the Constitution and laws of the United States regarding the militia and enlisted soldiers in the service of the government, the ordinary forms of law, the established principles of justice, and the precepts of the Constitution are observed. Chancellor Kent, in his Commentaries, declares that the Supreme Court of New York, on application, has allowed writs of habeas corpus to bring enlisted soldiers detained in custody of United States officers, to determine the validity of their enlistment, and have exercised jurisdiction in the case by enforcing obedience to such writ; and he further says: "The question was therefore settled in favor of concurrent jurisdiction in that case and there has been a similar decision and practice by the courts of other States." From all these facts it would appear that the advocates for this obnoxious construction of the Constitution and the validity of the law of 1793, believe that in deciding all other questions arising under the Constitution and laws of the United States in relation to the rights of property between individuals, or States, and also the claims of the government for service under enlistment, the common rules of law, the ordinary forms of judicial proceedings, the injunctions and prohibitions of the Constitution should be rigidly adhered to; but that the relation subsisting between master and slave is so holy in its nature, so righteous in its character, and so benign in its influence and tendencies, as to entitle it to such special regard, as to overlook all these formalities, securities and restraints in passing upon its sacred claims. That the claims of the government for services under voluntary enlistment, the title of a person to a horse, an ox, or a dog should be passed upon by a jury of the country, but that a question involving personal liberty for a life and posterity, should be irrevocably determined by the arbitrary and unrestrained will of a single individual selected for that purpose by the party in interest. We believe, on the contrary, the exercise of such power to be the worst species of despotism, wholly unwarranted by the constitution, repugnant to its principles, and dangerous to the liberties of the people. We do not believe it to be within the constitutional power of Congress to authorize or compel any State magistrate or private citizen to lend their aid in catching run away slaves, and returning them into bondage. We believe the powers conferred upon Congress were restricted to more laudable objects.

This, however, is but a single item in the long catalogue of abuses and encroachments of the Slave Power upon our rights, privileges, and interests, to correct and repel which the Liberty party has been organized in the free States of the Union. It is because we have seen and felt the influence of this power, extended over all our free institutions, moral, political, civil, religious and literary. Because it has corrupted or overawed the moral and religious organizations of our country in requiring them to disavow or disregard the principles, discipline and rules adopted by them in the days of their purity in regard to the evils of slavery and their duties in relation to it, and to those who sustain it. Because it has polluted our institutions of learning and literary men, in causing them to repudiate the principles of their ancestors, to pander to the vitiated taste, and cringe to the haughty rebukes of modern slaveholders. Because it has corrupted, intimidated, moulded, directed, and humbugged our political parties, politicians and statesmen, and made them subservient to its interests and designs. Because it has through the organization and discipline of the two great political parties, carried out its selfish purpose and avowed design of giving "law to the government." Because the law thus given to the government has been partial, unequal, selfish, vacillating, and ruinous. Because under its influence and dictation, the policy of the government has been radically changed, and its powers exclusively exerted in promoting and fostering the interests of slavery and the products of slave labor, by legislation, by treaties, by regulations of trade, by the appointment of foreign agents, and the appropriations of money in utter disregard of the ruinous sacrifice of the interests of the non-slave-holding states, and the products of free labor. And finally, it is because all hopes of effecting a correction of these abuses of power, and the restoration of the government to its constitutional duties and obligations by a longer adherence to either of the political parties which have so long distracted the country is utterly extinguished, that the Liberty party has unfurled its banner, and invoked the people to rally to its standard in vindication of their rights and the reformation of these abuses. We advocate no exclusive sectional interests, we inculcate no new principles of either moral or political action, we urge no new theory or policy of government, but we seek to restore its administration to the same principles and policy unanimously adopted & established by the whole American people through their Representatives, in the Declaration of Independence, in the Constitution of the United States, and in the celebrated Ordinance of 1787, approved by Washington, the Father of his country. Such are the avowed principles and objects of the Liberty party. For these we have unitedly and firmly resolved to contend and use all lawful and honorable means to accomplish and maintain. I have deemed this a fit occasion to give this hasty sketch of our principles and objects, and brief review of the progress of our cause, for which you in common with others have made such personal and political sacrifices to accelerate and maintain.

And have we not abundant cause for encouragement and perseverance in the good work in the indications which are constantly developed of dissatisfaction in the minds of the people in regard to the present condition and future prospects of our national affairs? They have seen that while the bounties of heaven have been dispensed with liberal profusion over our country, and while surrounded with all the elements of national prosperity and happiness, that discord, dissension, & violence have prevailed in our national councils, that our public men and political parties have been wrangling & contending for power and office regardless of the wants and sufferings of the people, until distress, embarrassment, distrust and dis-

pendence have pervaded the land. They have heard these calamities imputed by each political party to the measures and policy adopted by their adversaries while in power. They have seen this power transferred from one party to the other, and have witnessed the same rejection of their petitions, the same degrading resolutions, the same insults to their Representatives, the same subserviency to the Slave Power, and the same disregard of their interests. They have compared the condition of individual States which have been under the exclusive control of one of these political parties for nearly a quarter of a century with others which have been controlled to an equal extent by the opposite party, and find the same distress, embarrassment and dissatisfaction everywhere prevailing, and many have been constrained to admit, there must be something radically wrong in the policy and measures of the general government as administered by either. And they look in vain for any hope of change for the better by selecting from the ranks of either, the very men who have hitherto directed and controlled their respective parties in all their struggles for power. During all these party contests for power and office, they have heard the voice of warning and remonstrance from individuals against the encroachments of slavery and the baneful influence it was exerting over all our free institutions.—They have seen these remonstrances disregarded and their authors and supporters assailed, and attempts made to silence their voices, destroy their influence, and crush them by violence. They have seen them rise from these persecutions and assaults like the phoenix from its ashes, with renewed vigor and energy, gathering additional strength from every renewed attack. They have seen the master spirit of the country, the Lycurgus of the age come to the rescue of their principles, the defence of their rights, the support of their petitions and remonstrances, vindicating in the councils of the nation, the constitutional rights and privileges of the people, and repelling every assault of his adversaries and persecutors, until they retired from the conflict discomfited and dismayed. They have beheld the people everywhere rallying to sustain them, unawed by power, unseduced by flattery, uncorrupted by patronage, and undecieved by misrepresentation.

The cry of constitutional liberty, and absolute severance from slavery is heard from every hill top and mountain throughout the free states. Its echoes are sounding over our plains and vallies. Occasionally a voice is heard from the dark regions of slavery, urging us to persevere in our course, that they too are engaged in a warfare against this unrighteous system. May the time speedily arrive when our whole country from the frozen mountains of the north to the sunny vales of the south, from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Pacific, may become indeed and in truth what it has been declared to be in name "a land of liberty; an asylum for the oppressed."

I am, gentlemen,  
with sentiments of respect and esteem,  
Your obt. servt,  
LEICES'ER KING.

MR. BIRNEY'S REPLY.  
LOWER SAGINAW, MICH.,  
January 1, 1844.

DEAR SIR:  
Your letter of September 13, communicating to me the result of the deliberations of the National Convention, recently assembled in Buffalo, was received at my home, after I had left a visit to New England, whence I have not very long since returned.

To learn that my constancy as an Abolitionist and my steadfastness in the principles of the Liberty party from the time of its being organized, have drawn toward me the confidence of that party, is too gratifying not to be acknowledged. To be selected as the representative of that party in its eventful struggle for the liberties of our country against their worst enemies, and with the single view to practically setting up among us the political truths of the Declaration of Independence, would, under the commonest circumstances of selection, be gratifying even to the most unambitious: How much more so ought it to be, when it is made unanimously, by an unusually large Convention, coming from all parts of the free States, and distinguished for its weight of moral and intellectual character. as the Buffalo Convention was, by the concession of all persons, not excepting those who are the most opposed to its objects?

The character of the Convention, the relation in which I have stood to the Liberty party since first it was formed—the unanimity with which I have been again nominated as the candidate of that party, at the next Presidential election, leave me no room, at this stage of our proceedings, to dispute or question the propriety of the choice; but only to say, in reply to this part of your communication, that I cheerfully accept the post to which our friends have thought proper, in their deliberate judgment, to assign me.

To the facts and arguments which you have been pleased to introduce in your letter for the encouragement of our friends and the information of all others, I would not venture to add any thing of my own. So aptly selected are they; so adequate in every point of view; so strongly arrayed; so concisely, yet so lucidly presented, that any attempt of mine to add to their number or force might justly be regarded as superfluous. If the love of liberty yet abide, as a principle, with the great body of our population, what you have so

well said cannot fail of contributing much to enkindle it, and to excite them to the earnest, energetic action that the salvation of our country and its free institutions now makes so necessary—so indispensable.

Most sincerely do I lament that Mr. Adams's course in relation to the Anti-Slavery movement does not permit me, as a friend of Kansas, to unite with you in the eulogy, which you have thought proper to bestow on his public conduct. The prominent part taken by Mr. Adams in the early stages of the Anti-Slavery agitation in Congress, and the essential aid he might have given to the cause, had he chosen to do so, led me, from the first, to pay particular attention to what he said and did concerning it. His course, in my judgment, has been eccentric, whimsical, inconsistent, defended, in part, by weak and inconclusive, not to say, frivolous arguments; and taken as a whole thus far is unworthy of a statesman of large views and right temper in a great national conjuncture. From this remark I except his defence of the Right of Petition, and his opposition to the schemes for annexing Texas to the Union—two matters that have been accidentally connected with Immediate Emancipation, but with which they have, in reality, no closer or more natural connexion, than with any other of the great interests of the country. For these instances of Mr. A.'s political firmness and ability I cheerfully allow to him as large a measure of honor as his most devoted friends and admirers can claim for them.

The abolitionists, carried away by their admiration of Mr. Adams's spirited defence of the Right of Petition, and his not less spirited opposition to the bold attempt to annex Texas to the Union, as well as by his often eloquent, though splenetic effusions against Southern Slavery and Southern dealing, have been well inclined to make his case an exception to their rule of dealing with public men, found substantially siding with the Slaveocracy in any important particular. In 1838, when "questioning" candidates was in use, Mr. A. was not subjected, if I remember right, to that test, ineffectual as it generally turned out to be, and as it could be always made, by the ingenuity of the persons to whom it was applied.

But aside from the kind feelings which, for these causes, abolitionists cherished for Mr. Adams, not a few of them—especially such as were personally and politically friendly to Mr. A. were led to believe from his unqualified expressions of regard for the object of abolitionists, as well as detestation of slavery, that maturer consideration had determined him quietly to abandon the grounds on which he had heretofore differed with them about abolition in the District of Columbia and in Florida, and as to the admission of the latter into the Union as a Slave State.

To Mr. Edmund Quincy, well known as an abolitionist of the "Immediate" school, by whom Mr. Adams had been invited to be present at a public meeting commemorative of West India emancipation, he says, in his reply (July 28, 1838)—"You have a glorious and arduous career before you, and it is among the consolations of my last days, that I am able to cheer you in the pursuit, and exhort you to be steadfast and immovable in it."

To the Whig Committee appointed to make known to Mr. Adams, that he had been selected as the Congressional candidate of that party—one, at least, of which committee was well known as an immediate abolitionist,—he says, in his letter of acceptance, dated Oct. 27, 1838.

"Should the people of the Twelfth Congressional District of Massachusetts again see fit to station me as their sentinel on the watch-tower of the nation, they will not expect from me, consent, acquiescence, or compromise with the system [Slavery] or any of its parts.—Unyielding hostility to it is interwoven with every pulsation of my heart. Resistance against it, feeble and inefficient as the last accents of a falling voice may be, shall still be heard, whilst the power of utterance shall remain."

Mr. Adams was elected. The next spring (1839) he published, of his own mere motion, so far as any thing to the contrary appears, two letters filling fourteen columns of the National Intelligencer, addressed to the persons who had forwarded Petitions to him to be presented in the House. Neither the length nor the character of the address—for it dwelt on an exuberant variety of topics—would seem to have been called for, by the avowed object of it, which was to inform the petitioners in gross, instead of individually, as a matter of convenience, what disposition had been made of their respective petitions. In this address Mr. Adams (?) laments the temper mutually ranking between the slaveholders and the abolitionists; and is convinced, that so long as it shall exist, the abolition of slavery in the Union, or even in the District of Columbia, is as far beyond the regions of possibility as any project of the philosophers of Laputa.

He expresses the opinion, that the multiplication of Anti-Slavery Societies rather weakens than promotes the prospect of immediate or early success.

He finds fault with the encouragement given to slaves to escape from their masters—with the exaggerated representations of the miseries of their condition—with the annoyance of candidates for popular elections by putting searching questions, &c.

He re-affirms the right of Florida to admission into the Union as a Slave State; also, his opposition to the abolition of Slavery in that Territory and in the District of Columbia. Respecting the latter, he says, he should in a special manner be opposed to the enactment of a law to operate exclusively on the people of the District against the will of that people, and in compliance with petitions from persons not to be affected themselves by the law. True, Mr. A. holds the opinion, that one human being cannot be made the property of another—that persons and things are, by the laws of Nature and of Nature's God so distinct, that no human laws can transform either into the other—but that the people of the District do not think so, and that in this case he must be guided by their opinion and not his own.

He assures the abolitionists that he desires not to interfere with the institutions of slavery where they are established (?)—that he would not abolish slavery without a due regard to indemnify the slaveholder for his loss—that he can lend his hand to no project for the abolition of slavery in the United States without the consent of the masters, and that Immediate Emancipation is a moral and physical impossibility!

Notwithstanding the creed of Mr. Adams differed so widely from that of the abolitionists, it turned out, that, at the election of 1840, he was the only Congressional district in Massachusetts where a candidate of the Liberty party was not presented to the people. The abolitionists seemed willing again to receive anti-slavery declamation in lieu of anti-slavery action, on the part of Mr. Adams, or, what is perhaps more probable, they expected that Mr. A.'s personal difficulties with the slaveholders in Congress, and the ill suppressed disgust with which his own party looked on his course, would, in the end, lead him to abandon his equivocal position, and take ground with them.

So it was again at the election of 1842—no Liberty party candidate was offered in Mr. A.'s district. It is but reasonable to suppose, that, under such circumstances, the abolitionists generally supported Mr. Adams; and as his majority was small over his Democratic opponent, that his election was owing to the abolitionists having cast their votes in his favor.

This departure from rule in Mr. Adams's case has been followed by the consequences that usually attend, either directly or indirectly, departures from rules that have been deliberately adjusted, for the management of large affairs. The abolitionists, in electing Mr. Adams, made him their own witness—hoping like an eager but inexperienced litigant, that his testimony would be favorable to them, because he was heard to speak freely of the general bad character of their adversary.—But the upshot of the matter is, that every thing, that is substantial in his testimony is favorable to their adversary. To them he gives "words—words—words!" The effect has been as it always is in such cases.

Do the abolitionists assail slavery in Florida—in the District of Columbia? There is Mr. Adams, the main reliance of their adversary placed in his position of power by abolitionists—playing "fast and loose," at pleasure, between the contending parties—amusing the one with speeches and letters against slavery, all very interesting and eloquent to be sure, but serving the other, day and night, defending the "Citadel" of their abomination.

Do the abolitionists labor so to correct public sentiment, that Congress, possessing unlimited discretionary power in the premises, shall be persuaded to refuse Florida admission into the Union as a Slave State? Mr. Adams is unceasingly impressing on the public mind, that this would be a breach of the National faith.

Do they toil to produce the general conviction, that slavery cannot long withstand the influence of a fast-rising public sentiment against it? Mr. Adams, in his cold response to the warm greetings of the Colored people of Cincinnati, assures us, that "as long as Africa encourages slavery it is impossible to put an end to it in America." And, as if to extinguish in the colored people all hope of an event, in which they, more than any other class of our population, are specially interested, adds:

"How this can be done I do not pretend to say. It is not the nature nor the right of our government to interfere with the government of any foreign country, not even the Government of Africa."

The abolitionists insist on Immediate Emancipation as the most practicable, and safest mode of emancipation, for all parties: Mr. Adams despatches it as "a moral and physical impossibility!"

They affirm at a Convention, the largest and the most deliberately called-together of any they have yet held, that the law of God is the Supreme law, that whenever human laws, no matter with whatever solemnities enacted, come in conflict with it, or aim to set it aside, they carry with them no obligatory force; are void: Mr. Adams, on the heel of that convention, and on the most public occasion he could make, affirms, that "the force of moral principle is and must be transgressed by the conventional rules of human society"—thus superceding the laws of the Creator by the enactments or usages of his creatures.

For the logic by which Mr. Adams, after asseverating in almost every variety of form our language can supply, that no laws can confer or sanction property in human beings, has arrived at the conclusion, that this barbarian, brutal usurpation ought to be endured at the heart of the government till the wrong-doers voluntarily relinquish their hold on their victims; that Florida ought to be admitted into the Union, with a slave-holding constitution—as if an immunity to annihilate the inalienable rights of the weaker portion of society were an essential element in our republican forms of State Government; that Immediate Emancipation in this country is a moral and physical impossibility—in view of the instances of its success in this continent, with which Mr. Adams must be familiar—that Slavery must first be abolished among the Mohamedan and Pagan chiefs of Africa, before it can be possible to put an end to it in Christian America—for such logic, I say, I can entertain but little respect.

And believing, as I do, that "there is no wisdom, nor understanding, nor counsel against the Lord," that no people can be permanently prosperous or happy, who in heart and practice deny His right to reign on earth among men; and that all attempts to persuade them that they

can are but types of politico-infidel empiricism—believing, this, I can entertain no higher respect for the ethics of Mr. Adams than I have expressed for his logic; but do wholly repudiate any and every code founded on the pernicious error that the commandments of God may innocently or advantageously be "transgressed by the conventional rules of human society."

Mr. Adams owes much of his present popularity—may I not say, nearly all—to his connexion with the Anti-slavery agitation. Abolitionists have contributed more than any other class of persons, to swell the tide of his influence. That influence is now active in fortifying against them every practicable point at which they have attacked Slavery in this country; and his quasi sympathy with them gives to it an independent and unusual force. There is no one who is doing so much—I assume not to say, it is so intended—to deaden the awakening sensibilities of our countrymen against the private iniquity and the public disgrace of Slavery, as Mr. Adams—so much to reconcile to them forbearance with a system, which that gentleman oftener and more vehemently than any other statesman among us has branded, as against justice—humanity—nature—the laws of God, and as "a deadly disease" before which the Union will fall, if it fall not before the Union.

The foregoing was written before I had seen in any of the Anti-Slavery journals, except one, a suitable notice of the sentiment expressed by Mr. Adams, to which I have last above adverted. But I have been gratified within the last few days, to see that others of them are following the laudable example set by the Daily Herald, of Cincinnati. It is to be hoped, that still others will follow, till not one be left in which there is not found recorded a faithful rebuke of a sentiment so dishonoring of God—so injurious to man.

With great respect,  
I remain, dear sir,  
Your very obt. servt.,  
JAMES G. BIRNEY.  
HON. LEICES'ER KING, Warren, Trumbull County, Ohio.

**Congressional.**

In the Senate, Mr. Woodbridge from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill granting to the State of Michigan alternate sections of lands to aid in the construction of her public works. Mr. W. accompanied the bill with a special report recommending its passage.

A bill to grant lands for the improvement of Fox and Wisconsin rivers, was explained by Mr. Tallmadge, but on some objection by Mr. Heywood, of North Carolina, was laid over.

The following items of business on the 11th, shows that the slave power can yet drum up a tremendous majority to stave off action on the subject of abolition, however willing they may be to receive petitions, in order to "allay agitation," or in other words, "put an end to the abolition excitement."

"In the House, Mr. Campbell, of S. C. from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported back a memorial from citizens of Lockport, New York, who ask Congress to revise the laws of the District of Columbia. The report states that the memorial is in violation of the 25th rule, and closes with a resolution that the Clerk of the House be directed to return the memorial to the gentleman who presented it.

After considerable effort on the part of Mr. Adams and Mr. Giddings, to obtain a hearing, and such a disposition of the subject as to permit discussion, the previous question was seconded, and the resolution of the committee was adopted by a vote of 116 to 69.

A Bill to divide the United States into two military districts was then read and referred.

THE RULES AND ORDERS being the business of the morning hour, Mr. Rhetl, of S. C., addressed the house in a long argument against the repeal of the 21st Rule.

Mr. Bidlack, of Pa., followed in favor of receiving Anti-Slavery memorials; when the morning hour having expired, the Western Rivers came up again, and the subject was discussed until the hour of adjournment."

The Resolution of Mr. McDowell of Ohio, instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to report a bill so modifying the present Tariff as to provide a revenue sufficient for the wants of the Government, economically administered, and with such discriminations as to look to that object and no other, came up, and under the operation of the previous question was rejected—Nays 102, Yeas 84.

The following bills were introduced and appropriately referred:

By Mr. Wentworth of Ill., to establish a collection district at Chicago.

By Mr. Payne of Alabama, to repeal the distribution act.

By Mr. Hughes, for the organization of a Territorial Government for Oregon.

Mr. Fulton gave notice of a bill to extend the franking privilege to ex-Vice Presidents.

Dr. Duncan introduced the following resolution into the House of Representatives of Congress on the 3d inst. The previous question was called upon and it was adopted—yeas 110, nays 53:

Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means be, and they are hereby instructed to report to this House, at as early a day as possible, a bill to provide for the collection, safe keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public revenue containing such provisions, guards, and securities as will best effect the objects herein specified; and to disconnect the Government revenue from all banking institutions.

Mr. Wilkins, from the Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the petition of William Jones, a free man of color, arrested as a fugitive slave, reported "a bill changing the relations of master and slave, in the District of Columbia." The bill puts the burden of proof on those who arrest the slave, whereas, the present law requires the slave to prove his freedom.

The nomination of Mr. Henshaw, as Secretary of the Navy, was rejected by the Senate. But little business has been done in this body, and for two or three weeks the daily sessions have not averaged more than one hour each.

The Committee on Rules have made their report to the House, with only one dissenting voice, recommending the omission of the 21st Rule. An exciting debate followed, the particulars of which have not been received.

The two following items from the Richmond Enquirer seem to show that the overseers have been mustering the forces of their northern Democratic allies, and on calling the roll, every one was found faithful to the motto of the party as put forth in the Globe—"OPPOSITION TO ABOLITIONISM!"

Abolition Movements at Washington.—We understand that the committee on the Massachusetts resolution to amend (say make or abolish) the Constitution, so as to strip the south of her slave representation, and expunge one of the great compromises of the compact, have met twice. Mr. Adams proposed to adopt the resolution, and Mr. Gilmer to reject it. At the last meeting, Mr. Adams proposed that he should prepare the reasons for the change, and Mr. Gilmer the reasons against—and that both reports should then be submitted to the committee. This arrangement was adopted—and accordingly we understand, that Mr. Gilmer is busily employed in researches on the history of the Government, and in preparing for the composition of a report, which we have no doubt will reflect great honor upon the author, and strongly support the principles of the Constitution. Mr. Adams has consented to grant him till the 25th of February to prepare the report."

From Washington.—We understand that a caucus was held on the evening of the 15th instant, among the republican members. An appeal was made to our Northern and Western friends, to say whether there was any particle of doubt as to the Massachusetts proposition.—There was a general response, that they would stand by the compromise of the Constitution to the death. It is still hoped at Washington, by some of our friends, that this and all our differences may be amicably adjusted."

**State Legislature.**

Petitions were presented by Mr. Pratt, from citizens of Kalamazoo, Jackson and Eaton counties, for the charter of incorporation of a Fourier association.

By Mr. Van Husem, from 42 citizens of Washtenaw, for the modification of militia laws.

By Mr. Ramsdell, from G. C. Clerk and others, for modification of militia laws. Also a petition for altering the constitution by extending the elective franchise. Also a law for further protection of personal liberty.

By Mr. D. C. WALKER, of sundry legal voters of Macomb, asking an amendment of the Constitution, by expunging from it the word "white."

Also, of sundry other legal voters, for a law for the further protection of personal liberty.

By Mr. PRATT, of 207 inhabitants of Bloomfield, Oakland county, asking the incorporation of a company for the purpose of constructing a plank road from Detroit to Birmingham.

By Mr. DAVIS, three petitions on the same subject.

By Mr. RAMSDSELL, of Theodore Foster and 47 others, praying for an amendment of the Constitution, by expunging the word "white."

By Mr. Ramsdell, from sundry citizens of Washtenaw, for better organization of militia.

Also, from sundry citizens of Washtenaw, that the word "white" may be expunged from the constitution of the State of Michigan.

Mr. D. C. Walker, from com. on ways and means, on the resolution directing them to take into consideration the propriety of offering the various public works of the State for sale at cash value, for State bonds presented a written report accompanied with a bill relative to sale of public works at cash value for State bonds; 500 extra copies of the report were ordered to be printed and the bill was read twice.

Mr. Wilson, from select committee heretofore appointed for that purpose, reported a substitute for the joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution; which substitute provides that all white male persons above the age of 21,

not being citizens of the United States, who may have resided in this State one year next preceding any election, and who shall have taken an oath before any Court of record, abjuring allegiance to any other power, may exercise all the rights of a citizen.

Mr. Pratt moved to strike out the word "white."

Mr. Moody supported the motion. If the State was going to act in opposition to the laws and constitution of the United States, they had better be as liberal as possible, and not very particular as to complexion. If the State was going to allow every body to vote, whether citizens or not, they had better not limit it to any particular color.

Mr. Wilson opposed the amendment, and called upon the Senator last upon the floor to give some sufficient reason for the change which had taken place in his views and feelings since the last year, when he had voted for the resolution now before the Senate.

Had he since then discovered that it was opposed to the laws and constitution of the United States?—This question had been fully discussed by the Senate, with all the authorities before them, and Senators had come to the almost unanimous decision that each State had a right to fix their own laws relative to the qualification of voters in their own limits.

The question had long ago been settled by Congress; and the case of the admission of Michigan was an instance. Michigan permitted all white persons of 21 year of age, who were within her borders, to take a part in the organization of her State government, and Congress had sustained this course.

Mr. Moody said the Senator had mistaken his remarks. He did not doubt the power of every State to make her own laws relative to voters. He had voted for this resolution last year, but he would ask the Senator if many things might not occur in a year, which would cause a person to change his mind upon this subject.

The Senator had admitted that a person might change his mind upon this subject. The Senator had admitted that person had a right to alter an opinion. There was a distinction between admitting foreigners who were within the limits of the State at the time, to participate in the formation of the State Government, and allowing all who came in subsequently to acquire all the rights of citizens by one year's residence.

He had been in favor of this measure, and had voted for it, at the time of forming the State Government. His principal objection to this resolution was, that he disliked alterations in the fundamental law of the land.

Should this resolution be adopted, before many years elapsed the foreigners in our State would outnumber the native citizens.

Mr. Wilson replied that he thought that foreign immigration should be encouraged. He was not afraid that foreigners would come into the State in such numbers as to subvert all our institutions,—to take from us all our rights and privileges, and drive us from our homes.

The resolution now before the Senate was precisely the same as that passed last year, and he hoped that it would pass the Senate now without amendment.

Mr. Moody did not believe that it was necessary to extend such inducements to foreigners to persuade them to come and occupy our soil, as to grant them the rights of citizens the moment they arrived on our shores.

Our rich, fertile soil, and salubrious climate, were sufficient inducements to that class of persons who were wanted. He had not the year before, paid any attention to the subject, and had voted for the proposition without having given it an investigation.

Mr. Starkey thought the discussion had taken a wide range, and Senators were talking about the merits of the resolution, when the question was simply to strike out the word "white." A number of petitions has been received from respectable persons praying an extension of the right of suffrage, and it was always difficult to ascertain exactly what the distinction was between white and other colors.

He believed it would be better to strike out the word altogether; it would save inspectors of election the decision of a great many difficult questions. He had heard something said about "foreign emigration," without knowing exactly what was meant by the term. Sending persons away from the State might come under this head.

He thought however, that if the amendment should be adopted, it would induce a great many persons to come into the State, who would not otherwise do so.

The amendment was adopted as follows: Yeas—Messrs. Gray, Mason, Moody, Niles, Patterson, Pratt, Redfield, Richmond, Starkey, Thurber, Turner—10.

Nays—Messrs. Cust, Compton, Green, Shearer, Turner, Wilson—6.

Mr. Pratt wished to give his reasons for opposing the substitute. He was opposed to any alteration in the organic law of the State further than that relative to one day election; so far he was willing to go, but no farther.

If we get in the habit of altering the constitution every winter it would soon get in the same situation as the revised statutes; no finite being could revise head or tail to it. He was opposed to allowing the privileges of citizens

to any but citizens in fact. He was in favor of allowing foreigners all proper political privileges, but he thought that these were sufficiently extended at present.—He thought it was a dangerous principle to assert that foreigners might vote, whether citizens or not. A residence of some years should be required, that they might become acquainted with the genius and spirit of our institutions.

Mr. Starkey moved to strike out the word "male." Lost, yeas 2, nays 13.

The substitute was then lost by the following vote: Yeas—Messrs. Cust, Wilson—2.

Nays—Messrs. Compton, Gray, Green, Mason, Moody, Niles, Patterson, Pratt, Redfield, Richmond, Shearer, Starkey, Thurber, Turner—13.

In com. of the whole, Mr. D. C. Walker in the chair.

The bill to amend the revised statutes so as to give power to the Executive to commute punishment was taken up, and the question being on striking out the first section.

Mr. H. N. Walker offered a substitute, that in all cases of capital punishment, the Governor may commute the punishment, under such restrictions and limitations as he may think proper, and may issue his warrant to the proper officer to carry out such commutation which shall be used instead of the warrant originally issued.

The amendment was adopted and the bill ordered to be reported with amendment, ordered to a third reading.

Mr. VIDETTO, from the Committee of Agriculture and Manufactures, submitted a report, which was ordered printed, with 500 extra copies, and a joint resolution that our Senators in Congress be instructed to vote for such a modification of the present Tariff law as to provide sufficient revenue for the economical administration of the government, and secure to all sections of the country equal benefits, which was read twice and referred.

Mr. DUNHAM, from citizens for the expansion of that word "white" from the Constitution. Bill relative to elander was read a third time and passed.

The bill to authorize the Governor to commute punishment in certain cases was read a third time, and the question being on its passage, it was, after an interesting debate, taken by yeas and nays, and the bill passed by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Adams, Ames, Baldwin, Berry, Davis, Delamater, Fairfield, Griffin, H. Hill, Joslin, Knight, Lamont, Livermore, O. Miller, P. Power, R. D. Power, Pratt, Ramsdell, Rix, Runyan, Shurtz, Snell, Tilling, Van Hosen, D. C. Walker, H. N. Walker, White, Speaker—23.

Nays—Messrs. Barnard, Blinbury, Chester, Dunham, Ferguson, H. Hall, Hawley, Hayden Hebard, Knowlton, Leland, McLeod, H. L. Miller, Murphy, Parmelee, Porter, Reuble, Rowland, Saunders, Schoolcraft, Sheldon, Stone, Vickery—23.

SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1844.

THE LIBERTY TICKET.

For President, JAMES G. BIRNEY, OF MICHIGAN.

For Vice President, THOMAS MORRIS, OF OHIO.

MONTHLY CONCERT.

The Monthly concert of Prayer for the Enslaved will be held at the Presbyterian Church Monday evening, Jan. 29, commencing at half past six o'clock.

CORRESPONDENCE OF JUDGE KING AND JAMES G. BIRNEY.

It will be recollected that the National Liberty Convention, which met at Buffalo August 30, requested Judge King, President of the Convention, to notify Messrs. Birney and Morris of their nomination, and further resolved that the correspondence between them be published.

We are happy to lay this correspondence before our readers, and we need not assure them that it will simply repay perusal.—The remarks of Mr. Birney on the course of John Quincy Adams in reference to the question of Slavery, will commend themselves to the judgment of every unprejudiced person.—Our readers well know that we are among the admirers of that indomitable old hero, patriot, and philanthropist; for such we consider him to be.

We have often thought that in withstanding the insolent aggressions of the slaveholders and their northern allies, he has displayed a moral courage and an intellectual energy of a far higher order than is usually evinced by military commanders of the highest reputation.

But it does not fall to the lot of man to be perfect; and Mr. Adams is not of that non committal order of beings, whose errors or excellencies are mere abstractions. Hence his errors are dangerous, because he puts them forth in earnest as practical, living truths.—There is the more need, therefore, that they be exposed, examined, and refuted. While he has taken ground for the right of petition, he has held ground against nearly or quite every antislavery measure, and asserted that by our efforts we were putting back the cause of emancipation.

But we do especially object to the atheistic sentiment that the laws of men must be obeyed even when they contravene the acknowledged principles of moral rectitude.—This virtually denying the sovereignty of God, and making a general apology for every species of outrage and wrong, which can receive the sanction of law. We see not how any Christian, who has vowed unlimited obedience to the will of his Creator, can possibly yield his assent to such a proposition.

Thus we see how readily the slaveholders crush the people of the Free States by dividing them on Banks and Tariff; and then by uniting themselves on the question of Slavery, they govern the North as they please.

FOR THIS WEEK.

We have on hand sundry articles from our exchanges, of value and interest.

Also, an account of the discussions at Adrian at the Temperance and Antislavery Anniversaries.

Also, a report of a debate on the principles of the Liberty party, held at Adrian, by Messrs. Stewart and Treadwell, for several days after the adjournment of the Society.

We are informed that it was conducted with ability and much courtesy and kindly feeling by all who participated in it, and had an effect on the community very favorable to Liberty principles.

Also, a communication on the necessity of some legislative protection of the crops of farmers against Black birds.

Also, we are requested to publish the action of the Synod of Michigan respecting the repeal of the Adultery law.

Also, we have been furnished with the Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, which we have not had time to read.

Also, we have on hand the proceedings of two meetings of our citizens respecting the removal of the late Postmaster in this place. These would fill several of our columns.

Also, sundry valuable communications from our friends are on the way to us.

In addition to the insertion of all these things, we are expected to give a full account of the doings of Congress, the State Legislature, the Foreign News, and a detail of every robbery, murder, suicide, fire, marriage, and death that transpires from week to week.

Now it is plain that we cannot insert all these things unless we have a sheet as large as the Brother Jonathan. Some must be postponed, some condensed, and some omitted, and our subscribers and correspondents must be content to leave the disposal of all these matters to us.

SALE OF THE RAIL ROADS.

It will be seen that the Committee on Ways and Means have reported a bill to incorporate the Michigan Rail Road Company. The bill provides for the incorporation of a Railroad Company, and authorizes and directs the State Treasurer, in the name of the State of Michigan, to deed to said Company the Central and Southern Railroads, together with all their appurtenances, in fee simple forever, upon the payment by the said company, to the State at any time within eighteen months from the first day of January, A. D. 1844, of the sum of two millions five hundred and eighty eight thousand seven hundred and ninety six dollars, together with such further sum as the books of the proper officers shall show to have been expended upon the Central Railroad between Marshall and Kalamazoo, and in the increase of stock and fixtures on both Roads since the 1st day of December last.

The estimated cost of the two Roads on the first of July, 1844, is \$2,776,296 21. The total amount of our acknowledged indebtedness on the Five Million loan at the same time will be \$3,181,903 96.

This would leave a balance of \$355,607 15, to be otherwise provided for, and our State debt would then be a little more than half a million of dollars. The Committee think there could be no question but the roads would be completed by the Company in a short time for their own pecuniary interest. Another reason why the sale should be made is, that the business of a common carrier is not the proper function of a State Government, but its care should be confined to the protection of the citizens from foreign aggression and interruption at home in their lawful and peaceful pursuits.

A third reason is found in the fact that a Company would transact business with more economy, and could make many minor arrangements for expediting and extending business, which the dignity of the State would not permit. The committee further state that they have good reason to believe that the State works can be sold at cost, if payments can be made in State bonds.

This is a question of much interest to the citizens of this State. So far as the sale would cancel the public debt, it meets our views. A state debt is and always will be, on the whole, a State curse. It opens continual opportunities for speculation, fraud, livery and every contrivance by which any portion of the public funds can be abstracted from the treasury. Besides, a heavy State debt invariably brings heavy taxation, and requires a great amount of time and expense for the necessary legislation and for agencies. But care should be taken on making the transfer not to grant any monopolizing or exclusive privileges to the Company to the detriment of the citizens of the State.

The Madisonian, Mr. Tyler's organ, draws a contrast between Clay and Van Buren. Mr. Clay is held up as all Southern—by birth, education, family alliances, and by being a slaveholder. On the contrary, Mr. Van Buren is described as all Northern,—by birth, personal ties, a worshiper of the demagogue of numbers—in early life a favorer of the colored population—he acknowledges the power of Congress over the District of Columbia,—and at this moment he dare not oppose, or in any manner offend, the Abolitionists in his own State.

The Madisonian comes to this conclusion: "Between these two Presidential candidates therefore, as it respects the question of Abolition merely, the slave-holding interest could not hesitate on which to choose. They would choose Mr. Clay for the same reason which it is now openly proclaimed, occasioned his rejection at the Harrisburg Convention—his being a Southerner and slave holder."

Thus we see how readily the slaveholders crush the people of the Free States by dividing them on Banks and Tariff; and then by uniting themselves on the question of Slavery, they govern the North as they please.

DANIEL WEBSTER.

It has been rumored for some time, that Mr. Choate, Senator from Massachusetts, is about to resign, to make way for the return of Mr. Webster to the U. S. Senate.

Rev. Joshua Leavitt, of the Boston Emancipator objects to such an arrangement on account of Webster's intemperate habits. This paper speaks of the facts as well known, and continues: "Mr. Webster cannot now serve his turn as before, because he is not now the Mr. Webster whose name the people delight to honor. Massachusetts is a Temperance State. She is the banner State in Temperance. The Temperance Society was first formed here, and has here gained its completest triumphs. The people feel that much is due to Temperance in the selection of public men, and the Whigs know how much they owe of their partial success, in the late election, to the Temperance labors and reputation of Mr. Briggs. Now we tell them that if they elect to the Senate of the United States, in the place of Mr. Choate, a man so habitually, notoriously, shamelessly, and boastfully intemperate, as Mr. Webster now is, the people will not stand it. The party which does it will never recover its ground."

This, certainly, is strong language, and can only be justified by the most palpable, undeniable facts. But as Mr. Leavitt has resided in Boston and in Washington for several years, the presumption is that he knows whereof he affirms.

The Committee of the State Prison to whom was referred the memorials respecting the competition of convict labor with that of other mechanics have reported, that such a system of labor should be established in the prison by law, as will lead to the employment of convicts in the production of those articles of mechanical ware which will not come into competition with the productions of individual mechanics.

This is all well enough, but some people are at a loss to know what kinds of "mechanical ware" would not "come in competition with the productions of individual mechanics." The evil remains untouched.

We notice that handbills have been published inviting the formation of a Pugilistic or Fighting School in our village. The object is to teach gentlemen how to fight with their fists in the most scientific manner. We can scarcely believe that the good sense of our citizens will sustain an establishment of this kind. Its tendency must be to deprave public morals, and so far as we can see, the result of the practice is evil and only evil.

Men ought to be distinguished for their intellectual vigor and energy, rather than for the force of their fists; and when a man, young or old, has no higher ambition than to be able to strike his fists against his fellow men with the greatest effect and in the most scientific manner, we may bid farewell to all hopes of his ever benefiting them through the superiority of his mental powers, or the excellence of his heart.

"GREEN MOUNT FREEMAN."—We have received the first number of a Liberty paper with this title, published at Montpelier, Vermont. It is of good size, well printed, and ought to receive the undivided patronage of the Liberty party in that State. Terms \$1.50 per year in advance.

The Lost Trunk Found, and about \$4,000 of the money recovered.—The Pomeroy Trunk was found last evening in Rivington street, in this city, and was detected in the following manner: It appears that a \$500 note of the Merchants Bank of this city, was sent by the Bank of New York to the former in exchange, where it was recognized as one of the lost bills in that trunk. This bill had been deposited in the Bank of New York by Von Seht & Co. of No. 14 Cedar street, who received it from a Mr. Lackner a German, who arrived in this country about six months since, and who paid it to Von Seht & Co. for goods &c.

Information was given to the Mayor of the above facts, who, with Judge Taylor, and Mr. Clarke (the Mayor's 1st Marshal), immediately repaired to 14 Cedar street, and there learned the residence of Lackner to be at No. 32 Rivington street, in the basement. Judge T. and officer McGrath went to Rivington street to watch the premises for the arrival of Lackner. In the mean time, First Marshal Clark arrested Lackner in Cedar street, and succeeded in getting him before the Mayor, who fully committed him. As soon as Lackner was arrested, the Mayor directed Judge Taylor to search his premises in Rivington street, and there found that very trunk, and about \$4,000 of money.

The most singular part of the discovery is that the above bill was the only one in the trunk that could have been identified.—Journal of Commerce.

Finale of the Express Robbery.—Lackner, the robber of Pomeroy's Express, committed suicide in his cell on Sunday, the 14th, by hanging himself from his bunk with a silk handkerchief. An attempt was made to resuscitate him, but it proved unavailing.—Verily, the way of the transgressor is hard.

The officers discovered in the chimney of the house, where Lackner boarded, some cylinders of the uncompleted bills. On announcing this fact to Lackner's wife, she confessed that her husband had burnt a large quantity of bills and several letters in the stove in their rooms. The entire contents of the trunk, except the money recovered, had been destroyed.—Det. Adv.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—The senate have passed a bill limiting the judicial tenure to sixty-five years. In the house, the anti-dueling bill received 62 yeas—49 against it; showing an evident gain in its favor.

An easy method to clean Ice from stone steps and from side-walks.—As the season of the year has arrived when ice upon the door steps, in house yards and on side walks, is troublesome and dangerous to walk upon, I will state for information, a simple, cheap, and effectual means of melting the ice at once, even while the cold is below temperature of Zero. Take a small quantity of fine salt, and sprinkle it over the ice, and it will immediately begin to liquify, and in a short time disappear. The process is more effectual than it would be to scatter burning coals upon the surface of the ice. The salt when it comes in contact with the ice, begins to dispartiate, and a crackling noise is made. Pumps in which the water is frozen hard, can be cleared of ice in a short time by throwing into the pump a quantity of fine salt. Believing the suggestion will be useful to many, is my motive for giving its publication. I have myself made a thorough trial of this mode of removing ice, and thus tested it by the standard of experience.—Journal of Commerce.

Unusual Consignment.—We understand that one of the bills of lading of the bark Natches of Portland, which arrived at this port from New Orleans yesterday, was "one negro slave, Martin, to S. L. Shaw." We do not know that this may not be the simplest way of emancipating a negro, but the phrase sounds strangely in this latitude.—Boston Daily Advertiser.

The following is from the N. Y. Journal of Commerce. The writer was asked "What is forty per cent ad valorem? Translated, it is forty added to the value of every one hundred. To sell one hundred dollars worth of foreign broadcloths in the city of New York; the merchant has to pay forty dollars tax or duty to the Government. The person who asked the question, is a merchant, and perhaps hundreds of your ordinary readers would be glad of the translation.

The Banner Staff.—The Baltimore Patriot of the 27th, announces the arrival in that City of the Banner Staff, cut by Mr. Clay at Ashland and designed for the Flag Staff at the Convention in May next. About one thousand Whigs assembled at the Railroad depot to receive it with due honors, notwithstanding the rain poured in torrents.—This is the spirit which will scatter Van Burenism like chaff.—Det. Adv.

A Sensible Man.—The New York Evangelist says the degree of Doctor of Divinity was lately conferred by the Columbia College, Washington city, upon Rev. Addison Broadbent. The gentleman wrote back to the President that he declined the honor, as he had D's enough in his name already.

Slave Votes vs. Free Votes.—In Louisiana, at the recent congressional election, there were less than 15,000 votes cast and yet she is entitled to four members. In Michigan there was about 40,000 cast, and yet she is allowed but three members of Congress.

Central Railroad.—Amount received on this road for the month of December, 1843, was as follows: Received from passengers \$2,568 62 " " for freight 2,049 12 \$4,617 74

Amount received in the corresponding month, 1842 5,247 91

The following is said to be a certain cure for the Diarrhoea. It should be cut out and preserved: "Parch half a pint of rice until it is perfectly brown—boil down a rice is usually done—eat it slowly and it will stop the most alarming Diarrhoea in a few hours."—Cincinnati Post.

A young Quakeress was lately married in Philadelphia, and her bridal dress consisted of woven glass and satin, which was imported from France, at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars!

For the Signal of Liberty. THE SCHOOL ACT.

Messrs. EDITORS.—I wish through your paper to call the attention of the people of Michigan to the necessity of an alteration, or amendment of our primary School Law, before small Districts can regularly enjoy the full benefit of schools, as is contemplated by the act. The necessary amendment should provide for raising money on the taxable property of the residents of the District, for the payment of the teachers, after the appropriation of the public money, instead of making up the deficiency on the scholars.

Under the present system there are a great many Districts so thinly settled that one or two individuals having large families, if they chance to take some unreasonable offence or dislike, can withhold their support and thereby prevent a school, or compel the majority to submit to their dictation, however selfish or unreasonable it may be.

Many parents and guardians are so parsimonious, or indifferent in regard to the education of their children, that many are kept from school to save expense, that would be sent if all were compelled to pay. As all are benefited by the education of all, it is but just that all assist in defraying the expense.

Such an amendment would not doubt add one fourth to the value and efficiency of the school act; and to save the expense of republishing the whole school act, the amendment only might be published, distributed and attached to the act.

One petition for the above purpose is already in circulation, and has received the signature of several men of property who have no children to be benefited by it. It is hoped that many others will be numerously signed and forwarded to the Legislature.

LIBERTY CONVENTION.

Notice is hereby given that a Convention of the friends of Equal Rights and Immediate Emancipation of the Slaves will meet at the village of Battle Creek on the second Tuesday, the thirteenth of February next, at one o'clock, P. M. and continue through the evening for the purpose of organizing a permanent anti-slavery society in Calhoun County. Several speakers will be present to give an interest to the meeting by lecturing and discussing resolutions; to spread information and truth before the people. A representation of the friends of the cause is expected from every Town in the County, and a general attendance is requested. Provision will be made for the accommodation of those who attend from a distance.

E. HUSSEY, SILAS W. DODGE, NATHAN DUNBAR, ABEL DENSMORE, JOHN WHITE, GEO. DENSMORE, J. L. EBERTON.

MARRIED.

In Raisin, on the 1st inst. by H. Howe, Esq. of Clayton, Mr. J. S. BAKER, of Dover, to Miss RUTH L. FERGUSON, of Fairfield. It flamed by Cupid's fragrant breath; Forever glows a light divine, That brightens at the touch of death. For true conjugal love forever Through kindred hearts incessant rolls, And nought in Heaven or Earth can sever The cord that joins congenial souls.

Sobbed.

DIED.

At Nankin, Wayne co. Mich. on the 5th inst. Mrs. ELIZABETH WAGONER, in the 36th year of her age. She was remarkable for deep toned piety, and devotion to the cause of the Redeemer. She was born in a mistake not, either in Massachusetts or New York, and deprived of her Father, Mr. Moses Pomroy, when only 4 years old, and of her Mother 4 years after, hereby left an orphan at the tender age of 8 years old, but in God she found a father to the fatherless. At the age of 17, she experienced the pardoning love of God, and soon after united with the Church of Christ, of which she continued a faithful member, until the time of her lamented death. In Feb. 1827, she was united in marriage to Wm. S. D. Wagoner, with whom she emigrated to this country in 1832. On the evening of her death, she went to bed as usual, and expired between 12 and 1 o'clock.—For this sudden removal, there is no doubt but that she was well prepared. She was a most exemplary christian, a great friend to the poor and oppressed, and forward in every good word and work. For some time previous to her death, the thought of that eternal blessedness which awaits the people of God, seemed to occupy her mind continually.

A day or two before she died, she remarked to a friend, that she felt the Lord very precious, so precious, that she had no fear of death, but felt prepared to depart at any time the Lord thought fit to call for her. The day before she died, she appeared exceedingly happy and cheerful. She was taken so suddenly, that she had no time to apprise her husband of her illness. She shut her eyes to open them in Glory. The circumstance of her death was improved by the author, in a discourse from Prepare to meet thy God, in the presence of a large and deeply affected congregation. The loss sustained by her neighbors, the Church of which she had been so worthy a member, and above all, by her afflicted husband, will not soon be made up. But we must all bow to the will of God. Perhaps there is not one individual in this place of which might be said so little harm and so much good.

W. P. ESLER.

The N. Y. Evangelist, Oberlin Evangelist, and True Wesleyan are requested to copy.

NEW BOOK STORE.

(ANN ARBOR, LOWER TOWN.) THE Subscriber has just received a general assortment of SCHOOL BOOKS, such as are in use in Common Schools in this State, together with a variety of Religious, Scientific and Miscellaneous works, such as—Quarto Bibles, Polyglot & Common, do. Pocket Edition, Family, do. School, do. Pocket Testaments, 3 sizes, Prayer Books, 4 sizes, The Psalmist, a new Baptist Hymn Book, Methodist Hymn Book, Watts' Psalms and Hymns, Annals for 1844, Cowper's Poems, Ossian, do. Campbells, do. Burns, do. Milton's Works, Scott's Works, Alburns, Tales of a Grandfather, Scott's Napoleon, Beautiful New Year's Presents, View of all Religions, Mothers Friend, Friends of Piety, Genie of Piety.

Meditation on Prayer, a valuable work, The Task, Berquin's Works, Christian, Baptist, Church, Washingtonian and Farmers' Almanacs, Boston Academy, Sacred Lyrics and Miscellaneous Collection, Singing Books, Blank Day Books, Ledgers, Journals and Blotters, Justices' Duties, Toy Bibles, Primers, 100 Year's Song Book, 30 kinds, and various other Books, together with Water, Sealing Wax, Ink, Quills, Steel Pens, Letter Paper, (an excellent article,) and common, Cop Paper, Ink Stands, Lead Pencils, Drawing Pencils, B. B. & H. B. and Prepared India Rubber.

All of which will be sold at Detroit prices for Cash. The subscriber has made his arrangements so that almost anything in the line of Books and Stationery which is not on hand can be furnished at a short notice. He intends to make the sale of Books a permanent business and will therefore do what he can to keep his assortment fresh. Don't forget the place, Ann Arbor, Lower Village, nearly opposite the Flouring Mill.

WM. R. PERRY.

January 8, 1844. 37-3m.

Stray Cattle. CAME into the enclosure of the Subscriber, living near Foster's Mills, in Scio, on or about the 1st of December last, ONE LIGHT RED STEER, some white stripes on him, and light horse a little lopped, and a black four year old. Also, TWO STAGS. One is red, with a white face; the other dark red, mixed with brindle, and supposed to be about three years old. The owner is requested to prove property, pay charges and take them away. JOHN FULLER, Scio, January 29, 1844. 40-8w.

CASH paid for TALLOW, by C. J. GARLAND, Ann Arbor, Upper Town, Jan. 22, '44. 40

CANDLES, BY the Box, for sale by C. J. GARLAND, Ann Arbor, Upper Town, Jan. 17, '44. 39

APPLES, BY the Barrel, for sale by C. J. GARLAND, Ann Arbor, Upper Town, Jan. 17, '44. 79

CASH PAID for WHEAT and TIMOTHY SEED, by C. J. GARLAND, Ann Arbor, Upper Town, Jan. 17, '44. 79

FASHIONABLE HAT STORE. W. BARNUM, would respectfully inform the citizens of Detroit, and surrounding country that he has constantly on hand a valuable assortment of Hats, Caps, Furs &c. which he offers for sale on the most reasonable terms at No. 75, Jefferson Avenue. GENTS, MERCHANTS and LADIES from abroad on visiting the City, will do well to give him a call before purchasing elsewhere. Detroit, Nov. 10th, 1843. 29-6m.

ESTRAY OXEN. CAME into the enclosure of the subscriber on or about the sixth of November last, a pair of STRAY OXEN. One is a spotted red and white—the other red, and had on a small bell. They were partly shod—judged to be 10 or 12 years old. The said Oxen have been duly entered on the Town Book, and apprised according to the law. ADAMS J. CUSHING, Webster, Jan. 5, 1844. 38-8w.

Michigan Book Store. 142 JEFFERSON AVENUE—DETROIT. THE public are informed that very large additions have been made to this establishment during the past summer, and recently embracing a very extensive assortment of works in the various departments of Science and Literature, Morals, and Religion; and also, a most complete stock of Letter and Foolscap Paper, Stationery articles, Classical and School Books, Blank Work, &c. &c. all of which are offered to the public wholesale or retail, as cheap as can be had at any Bookstore west of New York City.

The assortment of Juvenile Books is very large, and well worth the attention of parents and others, who may wish to put good books into the hands of children. Family Bibles—a great variety; Pocket Prayer Books, line and common; Psalms and Hymns, various collections; Universal Manual, Catholic Prayers, Flowers of Piety, Christian Sacrifice, Christian Guide, Catholic Melodies, &c. &c. Books for Libraries; in substantial bindings, may be found here in great abundance.

Books for sale in great abundance: Portfolios, with and without locks; fine editions of the Poets, large & small; Dissected Maps Battle Plans, &c. &c. Please call and examine. C. MORSE, January 14, 1844. 38-1f

DR. OSGOOD'S INDIA CHOLAGOGU. AMONG the most valuable qualities of this medicine, is its restoring influence upon constitutions impaired and injured by previous attacks of bilious fever, or other ailments, by a long residence in those climates which produce them. There are many constitutions which become gradually undermined by a misused influence, without even a day's actual confinement. In such cases, the Cholagogu acts like a charm—the self-will complexion, loss of appetite, languor, weariness and depression of spirits, with other unpleasant symptoms which render life a burden, all yield to this remedy when faithfully used according to the directions of the accompanying pamphlet. It is entirely a vegetable preparation, and may be taken with perfect safety under all circumstances of the system.

For sale by W. S. & J. W. MAYNARD, sole Agent, for Ann Arbor and vicinity. January 14, 1844. 38

THE TRUE PAIN EXTRACTOR SALVE, WHICH cures a charm all BURNS by fire or water, and every external SORE, PAIN, INFLAMMATION, ACHE or ITCHING ever yet found upon the human family...

GREAT BARGAINS IN READY MADE CLOTHING! HALLOCK & RAYMOND WOULD respectfully inform the citizens of Ann Arbor, and the State generally...

FASHIONABLE TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT. J. R. WALKER would announce to his friends and the public in general, that he is now in the receipt of the fall and winter fashions for 1843-4...

VICTORY AT LAST! The Fever and Ague used up - Dr. Banister's Pills TRIUMPHANT.

UNITY OF INTEREST. NOBLE AND SPRAGUE, WOULD call the attention of the citizens of Ann Arbor, and the community in general...

MORTGAGE SALE. DEFAULT having been made in the payment of a certain sum of money with the interest thereon, secured to be paid by a certain indenture of Mortgage...

COMSTOCK & CO., 21, Courland Street. Be sure, therefore, and ask for COMSTOCK'S, as our plate with Dalley's name on it has been used...

Also, a very choice selection of Broad Cloths, Cassimeres, and Vestings, which they are prepared to manufacture to order in a superior manner...

Mr. Walker would take this opportunity to return his sincere thanks to all who have hitherto favored him with their patronage, and hopes he has given general satisfaction...

DR. BANISTER'S CELEBRATED FEVER AND AGUE PILLS. PURELY VEGETABLE. A safe, speedy, and sure remedy for fever and ague, dum ague, chill fever, and the bilious diseases peculiar to new countries...

ABBOT & BEECHER. DETROIT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN DOMESTIC STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS.

MORTGAGE SALE. DEFAULT having been made in the payment of a certain sum of money with the interest thereon, secured to be paid by a certain indenture of Mortgage...

PETER'S PILLS. TRUTH HAS PREVAILED. PETER'S Vegetable Pills have been ten years before the public. During that period they have obtained a celebrity unparalleled in the history of the most popular medicines...

Also, a very choice selection of DOMESTIC CLOTHS, PLIOT and BEARER CLOTHS, BELGIAN COTTONS, SATINETS, WINTER TWEEDS, and every variety of description of goods suitable for gentlemen's wearing apparel...

1843. WHOLESALE & RETAIL. J. W. WALKER, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, SMART'S BLOCK, 137 JEFFERSON AVENUE, DETROIT.

LOWER TOWN HEAD QUARTERS! MESSRS. DAVIDSON & BECKER, have just received from New York a large and splendid assortment of Fancy and Staple DRY GOODS.

JUST received a larger Stock than ever of Heavy Brown Sherings, Sherings and Drilling, Bleached Goods, Calicoes, Aprons, Checks, Bagging, Barlaps, Diapers, Craths, Muslin, Fustians, Mole Skins, Satinets, Sheep's Gray Cloth, Backskin Cloth, Flannel, Cassimeres, and Woolverine.

MORTGAGE SALE. DEFAULT having been made in the payment of a certain sum of money with the interest thereon, secured to be paid by a certain indenture of Mortgage...

E. DEAN'S CELEBRATED CHEMICAL PLASTER. The most effectual remedy yet discovered for Rheumatism, Fever Sores, White Swellings, Inflammation in the Eyes, Swelled Throat in Scarlet Fever, Quinsy, &c. &c.

THE CHEMICAL PLASTER is an important remedy for those who are afflicted with chronic and inflammatory complaints, by its soothing, counteracting inflammation, and giving speedily relief to all the various kinds of Rheumatism, Ague in the Breast, Scalds, Burns, Bruises, Scrofula, Ulcers, Old Sores of almost every description...

DEAN'S CELEBRATED CHEMICAL PLASTER. THE following is one from among the numerous testimonials from persons of the highest respectability, which the proprietors have received.

Also, a large quantity of Dry Groceries, Crockery, Shelf Hardware, Nails, Boots and Shoes, Men's and Boy's Caps, Paints, Dye Stuffs, and Medicines, &c. &c. &c. which they will sell lower than has ever before been offered in this place.

TO CLOTHIERS, MANUFACTURERS AND MERCHANTS. THE subscribers are now receiving, at their stores, 137 Jefferson Avenue, and corner of Randolph and Woodbridge streets, Detroit, a large and general stock of DYE-WOODS AND DYE-STUFFS.

Chancery Sale. Philip H. Reeves, vs. Daniel H. Scully, IN CHANCERY, 2d CIRCUIT, and Mary Scully.

Valuable School Books. TWO of the best, and most necessary, and necessary SCHOOL BOOKS, are the following, which have received the sanction of the best judges in the State of New York...

Attention CLOTHIERS! JUST received at the General Depot, for the sale of Clothiers Stock, Machinery, Dye Stuffs, &c. &c., No. 139, Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, the following large, well assorted, and carefully selected stock, viz:

WHOLESALE & RETAIL. STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS. THE subscribers keep constantly on hand a large and choice stock of DRY GOODS, BOOTS AND SHOES, DRY GROCERIES, &c. &c., which have been selected with care...

TO THE PEOPLE! JUST received at the Farmers' and Mechanics' Store, a general assortment of Fancy and staple DRY GOODS, Groceries, Crockery, Boots and Shoes, &c. &c. which will be sold cheap and for ready pay only.

MACHINE CARDS. Sattinet Warps, Shears, &c. This entire stock has been purchased within the last two weeks, and selected personally by one of the concern, who has been in the business for the last seven years...

YPSILANTI ACADEMY, AND TEACHERS' SEMINARY. THE next term of this institution will commence on Monday, Feb. 12, and continue all 11 weeks. While this school is equally open to all 11 weeks...

THE AMERICAN CLASS READER. containing a series of lessons in reading, with introductory exercises in Arithmetic, Grammar, and English, and the other essential elements of correct and elegant elocution...

Attention CLOTHIERS! JUST received at the General Depot, for the sale of Clothiers Stock, Machinery, Dye Stuffs, &c. &c., No. 139, Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, the following large, well assorted, and carefully selected stock, viz:

NEW GOODS!! Having retired, not from business, but to the old stand of G. Ward, I will sell GOODS Cheap. My stock is entirely new, and embraces a good variety, well selected, and the goods cannot fail to satisfy those who wish to purchase.

RAIL ROAD HOTEL. 1843. BY 1843. PATRICK & ANDREWS. THE above Hotel has been greatly enlarged, and fitted up in a style equal to any public house in Detroit, for comfort and convenience.

CLOCKS! CLOCKS! THE subscriber having just received several cases of BRASS and WOOD CLOCKS, of various descriptions, is prepared to sell them Cheap for Cash. Also, a general assortment of JEWELRY, consisting in part of Gold Finger Rings, and Bosom Pins, Hearts and Crosses, Silver and Common Thimbles, Watch Chains and Rings, Buttons, Cases, also Spoon, Sugar Bowls, Butter Knives, Tooth and Hair Brushes, Pocket Books, Violin Strings, Needles, Pins, Hooks, and Eyes.

WOODWORTH'S HOTEL. NORTHERN, EASTERN, AND SOUTHERN STAGE HOUSE. THE undersigned respectfully announces to the public that he has purchased the Proprietor of this well known establishment. The House having been thoroughly overhauled, and refitted in a manner calculated to promote the comfort of citizens and the travelling public.

THE AMERICAN CLASS READER. containing a series of lessons in reading, with introductory exercises in Arithmetic, Grammar, and English, and the other essential elements of correct and elegant elocution...

Attention Ladies. SPINNING WHEELS, QUIL WHEELS, REELS and SPOOLS, for sale by C. J. GARLAND, No. 139, Jefferson Avenue, Detroit.

WOOL! WOOL! CLOTH! CLOTH! THE subscribers would inform the Public that persons having wool to be manufactured, can have it done at their Manufacture within a short time, as the large quantity of wool furnished them by farmers and others the past season is nearly completed...

WOOL! WOOL! CLOTH! CLOTH! THE subscribers would inform the Public that persons having wool to be manufactured, can have it done at their Manufacture within a short time, as the large quantity of wool furnished them by farmers and others the past season is nearly completed...

SOLE LEATHER. THE undersigned has just received from the Manufacturer, and will continue to be supplied with a General Assortment of EASTERN TANNED LEATHER, which he will sell at decidedly Low Prices, for CASH or HIDES.

Notice. A. M. NOBLE would respectfully remind his customers, that as he has taken a partner, and is making new arrangements in his business, he wishes for an immediate settlement with all who are indebted to him.

NOTICE. ALL those indebted to the firm of J. Beckley & Co. are requested to make payment immediately. Oct. 23, 1843.

Attention Ladies. SPINNING WHEELS, QUIL WHEELS, REELS and SPOOLS, for sale by C. J. GARLAND, No. 139, Jefferson Avenue, Detroit.

WOOL! WOOL! CLOTH! CLOTH! THE subscribers would inform the Public that persons having wool to be manufactured, can have it done at their Manufacture within a short time, as the large quantity of wool furnished them by farmers and others the past season is nearly completed...

SOLE LEATHER. THE undersigned has just received from the Manufacturer, and will continue to be supplied with a General Assortment of EASTERN TANNED LEATHER, which he will sell at decidedly Low Prices, for CASH or HIDES.

Bristol's Sarsaparilla. THIS valuable medicine so justly celebrated as a certain cure for Scrofula or Kings Evil, or any disease arising from impurity of the blood, has been so well known as to need no publication of the numerous certificates now in our possession...

Notice. A. M. NOBLE would respectfully remind his customers, that as he has taken a partner, and is making new arrangements in his business, he wishes for an immediate settlement with all who are indebted to him.