

# THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

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T. FOSTER, }  
G. BECKLEY, } Editors.

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1845.

VOL. 5, NO. 16.  
WHOLE NO. 221.

## THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY

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

BECKLEY, FOSTER, & Co.

For the Michigan State Anti-Slavery Society.

TERMS.

ONE DOLLAR a year, in advance; if not paid in advance, TWO DOLLARS will be invariably required.

Old subscribers can have their papers at one dollar a year, by forwarding that amount, and paying arrears.

All subscribers will be expected to pay within the year.

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SIGNAL OF LIBERTY: ANN ARBOR, MICH.

## POETRY.

From the Saturday Courier.  
PERSEVERE.

BY JOSEPH MERREFIELD.

I'd not give up! No! grim despair  
Should never forge a chain for me,  
While thus I breathe my native air  
Within a land of liberty!

No! dastard were that soul that covers,  
Within a free-born land like ours,  
I'd not give up! though every frown  
That Fortune's face is wont to wear,  
Should rob me of the small renown,  
That may have been my humble share,  
Should thwart my every wish and will—  
Fortune—through all, I'd woo thee still!

Shame on the weak and craven heart,  
That bows beneath each transient sorrow,  
Without the nerve to pluck the dart,  
And greet the sunrise of the morrow!  
Without the will, (for will is power),  
To pluck the thorn and call the flower!

For what, to man, is manhood given?  
For what his varied powers of mind?  
For what his every hope of Heaven,  
When earth's fair gifts have been resigned,  
If not to brave misfortune's threat,  
And rise superior to them all!

Then raise that drooping brow of thine—  
Resolve—and then endeavor!  
Give sorrow to the laughing wind,  
With fear and doubt—forever!  
Press onward—and depend no more—  
Thy motto be—"Excelsior!"

\*S ill higher.

## MISCELLANY.

### STORMING QUEBEC.

As the conquest of Canada seems to have been a leading object in our two defensive wars with Great Britain, we would respectfully call the attention of all the truly valiant, and of all whose patriotism is not "run" in a pair of bullet wounds, to the present juncture of affairs at Quebec. We are firmly persuaded that that resolute city might be easily overcome, if a well arranged descent were made upon it, without a moment's delay. And if Capt. Polk would but commission us to fit out that great lazy leviathan, the Ohio, which lies basking its crocodile back in Boston harbor, and permit us to man and arm it with such men and arms as we wot of, we would engage to reduce that American Gibraltar in ten days, without the loss of a single drop of blood. Who cares for Wolfe and Montcalm? Brave men they were, in a certain sort of fashion; but they did "not know any thing about war;" about overcoming enemies; they had not the gospel knack of taking a city. Their tactics and tools were all short-sighted and short-bitted. The difficulty with them and all their kind was this—they could not get at the enemy.—They pushed thousands of their foes into eternity on the point of their bayonets;—their cannon fenced the plains of Abraham, with winrows of dead men; but they never killed an enemy. Enemies are as immortal as any malignant spirits, and you might as well hope to shoot sinners dead, as to shoot an enemy. There is but one way given under heaven whereby one can kill an enemy, and that is, by putting coals of fire upon his head; that does the business for him at once. Lie in wait for him, and when you catch him in trouble, faint from hunger or thirst, or shivering with cold, spring upon him like a good Samaritan, with your hands, eyes, tongue and heart full of good gifts. Feed him, give him drink, and warm him with clothing and words of kindness; and he is done for. You have killed an enemy and made a friend at one shot.

Now, as we were saying, we should like to be put in command of the Ohio for thirty days. We would trundle out all that was made of iron, except the anchor, cable and marlspikes—we would not save a single cutlass, though it had been domesticated to a cheese knife. Then the way we would laide down the huge vessel to the water's edge with food and

covering for human beings, should be a marvel to the carrying trade. The very ballast should be something good to eat.—Let's see—yes—we have it! The ballast should be round clams, or the real quahaugs—heavy as cast iron and capital for roasting. Then we would build along up, filling every square inch with well cured provisions. We would have a hog-head of bacon mounted into every port-hole, each of which should discharge fifty hams a minute, when the ship was brought into action. And the state room should be filled with well made garments, and the taut cordage, and the long tapering spars should be festooned with boys' jackets and trowsers. Then when there should be no more room for another cod-fish or herring, or sprig of catnip, we would run up the white flag of peace, and, ere the moon changed, it should wave in triumph in the harbor of Quebec.—We would anchor under the silent cannon of her Gibraltar, and open our batteries upon the hungry and houseless thousands, begging bread on the hot ashes of their dwellings. We would throw as many hams into the city, in twenty-four hours, as there were bombshells and cannon-balls thrown into Kail by the besieging armies. We would barricade the low, narrow streets, where live the low and hungry people, with leaves of bread. We would throw up a breastwork clear around the market place, of barrels of flour, pork and beef; and in the middle we would raise a stack of salmon and codfish as large as a small Methodist meeting house, with a steeple to it, and a bell in the steeple; and the bell should ring to all the city bells; and the city bells should ring to all the people to come to market and buy provisions, "without money and without price." And white flags should every where wave in the breeze, on the vanes of steeples, on mast-heads, on flag-staves along the embattled walls, on the end of willow-sticks, borne by the laughing, romping, trooping children. All the blood-colored drapery of war should bow and blush before the stainless standard of peace, and generations of Anglo-Saxons should remember, with mutual felicitations, THE CONQUEST OF THE WHITE FLAG; OR, THE STORMING OF QUEBEC.—Elihu Burritt.

ROMANTIC INCIDENT.

The New York papers announce the marriage of a Mr. Thomas Mowitt, to Charlotte Conroy, under circumstances truly romantic, and an illustration of the marvellousness of truth over fiction.

We shall condense as briefly as practicable, the interesting particulars of this singular marriage. Mowitt is a highly respectable shoemaker of New York, and in the capacity of "boss" had employed numerous workmen, among whom was a Mr. John Pelsing, who, by his faithfulness, industry, and sobriety, had so ingratiated himself into his good graces, that some three years since he took him into co-partnership and carried on the business in the name of Mowitt & Pelsing. From this period until some time last summer, nothing occurred to disturb the relation existing between the partners. Every thing went on swimmingly, and they became constant friends and companions, and boarded together at the same house. Thus their affairs went on, till one day they were subpoenaed on a Coroner's jury, about to be held over the body of a man that had been taken out of the river at one of the docks. The verdict of the jury was simply "found drowned." The jury being dismissed, Mr. Mowitt turned round to look for his friend and fellow-juror, who had been at his side till that moment, but was now gone. Mr. M. proceeded to his boarding house, and thence to the store, to look for his partner; but he had not been to either, nor did he return; and nothing could be heard of, nor from him. He gave up all further inquiries, thinking there must have been some mysterious connection between Mr. Pelsing and the man that was found drowned.

So matters rested until a certain day not long since, when a lady called on Mr. Mowitt, at his store, and asked for Mr. Pelsing. She was told the particulars of this story.

"And has he not been here since?" she anxiously inquired. "Not since," was the reply. "I know he has," returned the lady. "He has not, I assure you—at least not to my knowledge," replied Mr. Mowitt. "But I am positive," replied the lady. "What proof have you of it?" inquired Mr. Mowitt. "The best in the world," replied the lady, "for I am here, and Mr. Pelsing and myself are one and the same person!"

The question then was, whether Mr. Pelsing was a gentleman or lady? and it turned out she was a lady, and her name was Charlotte Conroy.

It also appeared that the drowned man had been the husband of Mrs. Conroy; that he had lived with her in Philadelphia

about two years; that he too was a shoemaker, but his habits were so dissipated that she was constrained to leave him; and disguising herself in men's clothes, went to New York, and sought employment with Mr. Mowitt, as above stated. Of her success as a journeyman and partner we have already been informed.

The finale of the romantic affair was, that Mr. M. requested Mrs. C. to make his house her home, and finding he loved Mrs. C. even better than Mr. Pelsing, he proposed a partnership for life, which was ratified by their becoming man and wife a few days afterwards.

This is perhaps the first instance on record wherein the wife performed the office of coroner's jurymen on the body of her husband.—*Bost. Bee.*

### A MAN AND TIGER COMBAT.

The next scene was of a far more awful character. A man entered the arena armed only with a Coorg knife, and clothed in short trousers, which barely covered his hips, and extended half way down the thighs. The instrument which he wielded in his right hand was a very heavy blade, something like the coulter of a plough, about two feet long, and full three inches wide, gradually diminishing towards the handle, with which it formed a right angle. This knife is used with great dexterity by the Coorgs; being swung around in the hand before the blow is inflicted, and then brought into contact with the object intended to be struck with a force and effect truly astonishing.

The champion who now presented himself before the rajah was about to be opposed to a tiger, which he volunteered to encounter almost naked, and armed only with the weapon I have just described. He was rather tall, with a slight figure, but his chest was deep, his arms long and muscular. His legs were thin, yet the action of the muscles were perceptible in every movement; whilst the freedom of his gait and the few contortions he performed, preparatory to the hazardous enterprise with which he was about to engage, showed that he possessed uncommon activity, combined with no ordinary degree of strength. The expression of his countenance was absolutely sublime when he gave the signal for the tiger to be let loose; it was the very concentration of moral energy, the index of a high and settled resolution. His body glistened with the oil which had been rubbed over it in order to promote the elasticity of his limbs. He raised his arm for several moments above his head when he made the motion to admit his enemy into the arena. The bars of a large cage were instantly lifted from above, a huge royal tiger sprang forward and stood before the Coorg, waving his tail slowly backward and forward, erecting his hair upon it, and uttering a suppressed howl. The animal first looked at the man, then at the gallery where the rajah and his court were seated to see the sports, but did not appear at all uneasy in its present state of freedom; it was evidently confounded at the novelty of its position. After a short survey, it turned suddenly round and bounded into its cage; from which the keeper who stood above, beyond the reach of mischief, tried to force it, but in vain. The bars were then dropped, and several crackers fastened to its tail, which projected through one of the interstices.

A lighted match was put into the hand of the Coorg, the bars were again raised, and the crackers ignited. The tiger now darted into the arena with a terrific yell; and while the crackers were exploding, it leaped, turned, and writhed, as if in a state of frantic excitement. It at length crouched in a corner, as a cat does when alarmed. Meanwhile, its retreat had been cut off by securing the cage.—During the explosion of the crackers, the Coorg stood watching his enemy, and at length advanced toward it with a slow but firm step. The tiger roused itself and retreated, the fur on his back being erect, and his tail apparently dilated to twice its usual size. It was not at all disposed to commence hostilities, but its resolve was not to be evaded. Fixing his eyes intently upon the deadly creature, he advanced with the same measured step, the tiger retreating as before, but still presenting his front to its enemy.—The Coorg now stopped suddenly; then moving slowly backward, the tiger raised itself to its full height, curved its back to the necessary segment for a spring, and lashed his tail, evidently meditating mischief. The man continued to retire; and as soon as he was at so great a distance that the fixed expression of his eye was no longer distinguishable, the ferocious brute made a sudden bound forward, crouched and sprung with a short, sharp growl. His adversary, fully prepared for this, leaped actively on one side, and as the tiger reached the ground, swung round his heavy knife, and brought it with irresistible force upon the animal's hind leg, just above the joint. The bone was instantly severed, and the tiger effectually prevented from making a second spring. The wounded beast roared; but turning suddenly upon the Coorg, who had by this time retired several yards, advanced fiercely upon him, his wounded leg hanging loose in the skin, showing that it was broken. The tiger, now excited to a pitch of reckless rage, rushed forward upon its three hind legs towards its adversary, who stood with his heavy knife upraised, calmly awaiting the encounter. As soon as the savage creature was within his reach, he brought down the ponderous weapon upon his head, with a force which nothing could resist, laid open the skull from ear to ear, and the vanquished foe fell dead at his feet. He then coolly wiped the

knife on the animal's hide, and made a dignified salutation to the rajah and retired amid the loud acclamations of the spectators.—*Oriental Annual.*

### SHIFTS FOR A LIVING IN EUROPE.

In a late number of Chambers' Journal in an article entitled "Life in the Sewers of London"—those immense subterranean currents in the construction of which a sunken capital of a million and a half or two millions sterling is invested—remarks that under ground as they are, they form the dark walk of wretched men and women, who, with torch in hand, to preserve them from the attacks of numerous and ferocious rats, wade, sometimes almost up to the middle, through the stream of foul water, in search of stray articles that may have been thrown down the sinks of houses or dropped through the loop-holes in the street. They will at times travel two or three miles in this way—by the light of their torches, aided occasionally by a gleam of sunshine from the grating by the way side—far under the busy thoroughfares of Cornhill, Cheap-side, the Strand and Holborn, very seldom able to walk upright in the confined and dangerous vault, and often obliged to crawl on all fours like the rats which are their greatest enemies. The articles they mostly find are potatoes and turnips, or bones washed down the sinks by careless scullery maids; pence and half-pence and silver coins; occasionally a silver spoon or fork, the loss of which may have caused considerable distress and ill-will in some house above; and not unfrequently more valuable articles, which thieves, for fear of detection, have thrown down when they have been hard pressed by the officers of justice. It might be tho't that a life amid the vilest filth, and amid so much danger and unpleasantness of every kind, would allure but few; but the hope of the great prizes sometimes discovered in this miserable way, deprives it of its terrors, and all the principal sewers that branch into the Thames have their regular frequenters.

### TURKISH SUPERSTITION.

In connection with this, I will relate an anecdote I once heard in Europe. An Englishman of the name of few years since was travelling in Turkey—it was about the time the phosphorus matches first came into use—you may recollect the little red cases imported from France at that time, with a small glass bottle in one end, and the matches in the other. The firman which he had obtained from the Sultan for his safe conduct, he had lost; and, arriving at one of the border towns, he was carried with his servants and effects before the Aga, as a spy of the Russians.—Vain were his assertions, his pleadings, threats, or proffered bribes; to prison he must go, until orders from Constantinople could be received, and his effects were left in possession of the Aga and his officers.

Curiosity, though not one of the greatest attributes of a Turk, in this case became a duty, his portmanteau and trunk were submitted to the plegmatic Turks. An Englishman generally consults his comfort, and this one, knowing how little of that article he should find in the land he was visiting, had supplied himself with all the articles of necessity or luxury he could conveniently carry with him. A small lamp, chaffing dish, a tea-pot, knife and fork, spoon, silver tumbler, brushes for the head, teeth and flesh, razors, soap, wax tapers, and other sundries, with shirts, dickies, bosoms, hosiery, boots, shoes and night-caps, were thrown in admirable disorder before the assembled divan.—These articles were not unknown, at least to many of the Mussulmen present—but a small tin case, opening with a spring, attracted the attention of all; in it, in six little compartments, were six red paper boxes, one of which was placed in the hands of the Aga for examination. The top was removed, and a number of little sticks, their ends covered with a composition, met his eye—a conversation ensued as for what purpose they could be used—at last he discovered another end to the box, which he opened, a vial sealed with red, was disclosed.

A Turk is no fool, and finding both bottle and sticks in the same box, he very naturally concluded they had something to do with each other; he accordingly, as a Christian would have done, inserted the end of the stick into the uncorked vial. A light hissing noise was heard, the stick was suddenly withdrawn, and in flames!—"ALLAH IL ALAH!" burst from the thunder-struck Aga—the box was dashed from his hand, and springing from his carpet, he rushed, together with the crowd, from the room and the house.

When their affright was somewhat abated, since they found no tremendous consequences had immediately ensued, a consultation was held—but for a long time no one would venture near the haunted room. Mustering courage, however, with pistols cocked, and glans in hand, led by their chief, the officers marched in battle array to the dreadful apartment, expecting, no doubt to see one of the fabled genii they had read of in the Arabian tales.—An awful silence ensued—the curtain was drawn, and on the floor, where it was thrown by the Aga, lay the terrible machine. The Imam was sent for, and amid prayers, and in a solemn procession, guarded with Janissaries on both sides, the "infernal machine," with its companions, fixed on forked poles, was

carried to the side of the river, and sunk beneath its surface.

The Englishman was soon after released; but to this day, says my informant, the Turks have not forgotten the Demon of the Gaiour.—*New Mirror.*

### SELECTIONS.

#### HOW IT LOOKS TO A SLAVE.

Frederick Douglass, the fugitive slave, in his narrative, has given his views of Slaveholding Religion. We make a few brief extracts. Should our readers think he expressed himself in terms too warm, or too unqualified, they will do well to exchange places with him for a moment, and imagine what would be their feelings towards a religion which sanctioned the stealing and sale of their persons, the robbery of their wages, the privation of the Bible, and their reduction from a state "a little lower than the angels" to the condition of a thing.

"I find since reading over the foregoing Narrative, that I have in several instances spoken in such a tone and manner, respecting religion, as may possibly lead those unacquainted with my religious views to suppose me an opponent to all religion. To remove the liability of such misapprehension, I deem it proper to append the following brief explanation. What I have said respecting and against religion, I mean strictly to apply to the slaveholding religion of this land, and with no possible reference to Christianity, proper for, between the Christianity of this land, and the Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference—so wide, that to receive the one as good, pure and holy, is of necessity to reject the other as bad, corrupt and wicked.—To be the friend of the one, is of necessity to be the enemy of the other. I love the pure, peaceable, and impartial Christianity of Christ. I therefore hate the corrupt, slaveholding, woman-whipping, cradle-plundering, partial and hypocritical Christianity of this land. Indeed I can see no reason but the most deceitful one; for calling the religion of this land Christianity. I look upon it as the climax of all misnomers, the boldest of all frauds, and the grossest of all felicitations.—Never was there a clearer case of "stealing the livings of the court of heaven to serve the devil in." I am filled with unutterable loathing when I contemplate the religious pomp and show, together with the horrible inconsistencies, which every where surround me. We have men stealers for ministers, woman-whippers for missionaries, and cradle-plunderers for church members. The man who wields the blood-clotted cowskin during the week fills the pulpit on Sunday, and claims to be a minister of the meek and lowly Jesus. The man who robs me of my earnings at the end of the week, meets me as a class leader on Sunday morning, to show me the way of life, and the path of salvation. He who sells my sister, for purposes of prostitution, stands forth as the pious advocate of purity. He who proclaims it a religious duty to read the Bible, denies me the right of learning to read the name of the God who made me. He who is the religious advocate of marriage robs whole millions of his sacred influence, and leaves them to the ravages of wholesale pollution. The warm defender of the sacredness of the family relation is the same that scatters whole families,—sundering husbands, parents and children, sisters and brothers,—leaving the hut vacant, and the hearth desolate.—We see the thief preaching against theft, and the adulterer against adultery. We have men sold to build churches, women sold to support the gospel, and babes sold to purchase Bibles for the poor heathen—all for the glory of God, and the good of souls! The slave auctioneer's bell and the church-going bell chime in with each other, and the bitter cries of heart-broken slaves are drowned in the religious shouts of his pious master. Revivals of religion and revivals of the slave trade go hand in hand together. The slave-prison and the church stand near each other. The clanking of fetters and the rattling of chains in the prison, and the pious psalm and solemn prayer in the church may be heard at the same time. The dealers in the bodies and souls of men erect their stand in the presence of the pulpit, and they mutually help each other. The dealer gives his blood-stained gold to support the pulpit, and the pulpit, in return, covers his infernal business with the garb of Christianity. Here we have religion and robbery, the allies of each other—devils dressed in angel robes, and hell presenting the semblance of paradise.

"Just God, and these are they  
Who minister at thine altar, God of right!  
Men who their hands, with prayer and blessing,  
Lay  
On Israel's ark of light.

"What! preach, and kidnap men?  
Give thanks and sub thine own afflicted poor!

Talk of thy glorious liberty and then  
Bolt and the captive's door!

"What! servants of thy own  
Merciful Son, who came to seek and save  
The homeless and the outcast, fereering down  
The naked and fereering dave!

"Pilot and Herod friends!  
Chief priest and ruler, as of old combined  
Just God and holy! is that church which lends  
Strength to the spoiler, thine!

Dark and terrible as is this picture, I hold it to be strictly true of the overwhelming mass of professed Christians of America. They strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. Could any thing be more true of our churches? They would be shocked at the proposition of fellowshipping a sheep-stealer; and at the same time they hug to their communion a man-stealer, and brand me with being an infidel, if I find fault with them for it. They attend with Pharisaical strictness to the outward forms of religion, and at the same time neglect weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith. They are always ready to sacrifice, but seldom to show mercy. They are they who are represented as professing to love God, whom they had not seen, whilst they hate their brother, whom they have seen.—They love the heathen on the other side of the globe. They can pray for him, pay money to have the Bible put into his hand, and missionaries to instruct him, while they despise and totally neglect the heathen at their own doors."

### LETTER FROM THOMAS EARLE.

The following is an extract of a letter from Thomas Earle, of Philadelphia, to the Cincinnati Liberty Convention, to which he was an invited guest. He is not, we believe, a Liberty man, but has acted with the Garrison Abolitionists for several years. He was formerly a Democrat, and the extract below exhibits Democracy of the "straitest kind."

"I would render a Liberty party democratic; firstly, because democracy is but general consistency with the single principle of opposition to slavery, or rather it is but opposition to every species of slavery; and secondly, because the support of democracy is the surest and speediest road to success. I would like to see a party even more democratic than was that which sustained the administration of Jefferson; and I believe that such a party, with clearly defined principles, would absorb the genuine democratic material from all other parties, and soon become the strongest.

"True democracy embraces three great points or principles: 1. Popular Sovereignty; 2. Equality of Rights; 3. Liberty.

"1. Popular sovereignty can exist only with universal suffrage and short terms of office. All attempts to secure order, tranquility, stability, and freedom from oppression, without the incorporation of these ingredients into the frame of government, have ever proved, and I think ever will prove abortive. The experience of San Marino, of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and I believe, some Swiss cantons, in the use of semi-annual elections, prove that no terms are so short, especially for the Legislature, as to be detrimental, otherwise than by mere inconvenience; while history demonstrates that no land which has established its elections less frequent than annually, has been able long to preserve more of the practical blessings of good government than are enjoyed even under absolute despotisms.

"2. Equality of rights, will give to all the same privileges; whatever their complexion, their birth place, their descent, their wealth or their education. If one man is allowed to be a banker, all must be free to become so. If one set of men are permitted to use the facilities of corporate association for business, all other men must be free to associate for the same purposes and in the same manner.

"3. Liberty—true liberty—embraces not merely the absence of chattel slavery, but of every other restraint not imperiously required by the principles of self-defence, and the palpable necessities of our nature. The majority has the right to judge of its own rightful power, but it has no right, knowingly, to act the tyrant in reference to the minority. It has no right to dictate to the minority what machinery, tools, currency or mode of business it shall employ, nor where nor with whom it shall trade, nor what kind of contracts it shall make, any further than may be evidently required in self-defence against fraud or outrage.

"I think public opinion is sufficiently advanced, or in sufficient progress of advancement, to sustain a consistent party which shall embrace, generally, the foregoing principles, and which, in reference to freedom of trade, shall go so far as to offer to return gradually to mere revenue duties, in reference to all nations which

"I have frequently observed that antislavery sentiments are much oftener cherished by females than by the other sex. Their sympathies for the oppressed are generally deeper and lasting; and were they sufficiently firm in the advocacy of man's "inalienable rights," the result would be most happy and beneficial. Much of the success that has hitherto attended the anti-slavery cause is owing to the efforts of woman. May we not hope that those efforts will be redoubled! Surely the cause is of sufficient importance to demand the united efforts of all, of every age, sex, and condition. Let all so unite and the days of Slavery are numbered. No device of its friends can save it. And when this institution, this monster of iniquity, shall have been rooted out of the land, may the daughters of Columbia be able to say, with one voice, "We have contributed to this glorious result!"

D. W. C. L.

Mundy, Genesee Co.

A Novelty in Matrimony.—A few days since there arrived at Southport, Wisconsin, in the steamer Empire a lot of emigrants to the West, among whom were two pair of twins. These twins were born of different parents—but under the same roof and at the same house. Each pair comprised a boy and girl; they lived near neighbors from infancy, and the same day before starting West, they were united in marriage—the male and female of the different pairs. They were from St. Lawrence County, N. Y.

will consent to reciprocate our liberality.

"Opposition to large military and naval forces, to high salaries and to extensive patronage, should constitute a part of the creed of a democratic party, as being essential to the preservation of liberty and purity of national morality."

### Communications.

For the Signal of Liberty.

A CHAPTER FOR THE LADIES.

"A very poor white woman lived within a mile of the plantation house. A female slave named Flora, knowing that she was in a very suffering condition, shelled out a peck of corn and carried it to her in the night. Next day the old man found it out and this deed of charity was atoned for by one hundred and fifty lashes, upon the bare back of poor Flora."—*Clark's Narrative.*

What think American ladies of a system which tolerates such acts as this? What think they of a system which sanctions the infliction of a severe punishment, upon an innocent female, for the performance of an act of mercy, enjoined by her own sense of justice, and by the religion which she professes? What think they of an institution which, instead of cherishing, seeks to stifle and destroy all the finer feelings of the human heart? What think they of a system which checks the growth of correct principles, upon a proper development of which depend, so essentially, the welfare and elevation of their sex? What think they of an institution which keeps a large portion of their countrywomen in the most profound ignorance, and most degrading servitude? What think they of a system which hesitates not to snuder the ties that bind the heart to home, to country, and to kindred; which separate families with the coolest unconcern and indifference; which steals the heart against the cries of suffering innocence; and which, in fact, destroys all that is "pure, or lovely, or of good report" in the character of man?

Ladies of Michigan, of the United States, know you not that American Slavery does all this? If I should assert that it does, you might well exclaim, "the half hath not been told."

You have not heard the cries of poor Flora and her companions in misery; you have not seen the life blood gushing from their gaping wounds; but you know that such things are. You know that there are wretches in the shape of men, who, unless restrained by the strong arm of the law, will commit deeds at which humanity blushes and hangs her head in shame. Such men hold slaves, and they will continue to hold them, and to treat them most unmercifully, until the system is destroyed root and branch. Their tender mercies are extreme cruelties. Could you, at one glance, look over the blood-stained field of slavery, you would find that the case of poor Flora is not an isolated one. Your hearts would sicken at the sight. Let me ask with the poetess,

"Can you behold unheeding,  
Life's holiest feelings crushed?  
When woman's heart is bleeding  
Shall woman's voice be hushed?"

Can ye look at the iniquity of slavery—the crimes to which it leads, and directly or indirectly, sanctions, and remain silent? Say not that it is man's business to destroy slavery. I know man ought to do it—he should have done it long ago, but he has been recreant to his duty. Now let woman speak, and it shall be done. You are aware of the extent of your influence. In social life, in religion, and in politics it is, or may be, almost omnipotent. Who shall set bounds to the influence of an intelligent and virtuous female? And shall not this influence be exerted in behalf of the injured slave? Will you not so far overcome all foolish prejudices against color, as to enable you to plead the cause of the oppressed? You need not make a great public parade, but you can consistently, and without overstepping the bounds of etiquette, plead with your sons, husbands, brothers, and friends, the cause of the poor slave. And would every woman in the Free States do this faithfully and firmly, the tide of public opinion would set so strong in favor of emancipation that resistance to it would be vain.

I have frequently observed that antislavery sentiments are much oftener cherished by females than by the other sex. Their sympathies for the oppressed are generally deeper and lasting; and were they sufficiently firm in the advocacy of man's "inalienable rights," the result would be most happy and beneficial. Much of the success that has hitherto attended the anti-slavery cause is owing to the efforts of woman. May we not hope that those efforts will be redoubled! Surely the cause is of sufficient importance to demand the united efforts of all, of every age, sex, and condition. Let all so unite and the days of Slavery are numbered. No device of its friends can save it. And when this institution, this monster of iniquity, shall have been rooted out of the land, may the daughters of Columbia be able to say, with one voice, "We have contributed to this glorious result!"

D. W. C. L.

Mundy, Genesee Co.

A Novelty in Matrimony.—A few days since there arrived at Southport, Wisconsin, in the steamer Empire a lot of emigrants to the West, among whom were two pair of twins. These twins were born of different parents—but under the same roof and at the same house. Each pair comprised a boy and girl; they lived near neighbors from infancy, and the same day before starting West, they were united in marriage—the male and female of the different pairs. They were from St. Lawrence County, N. Y.

Communications.

For the Signal of Liberty. THE JEWS—AND AMERICAN CHRISTIANS.

"History is Philosophy teaching by example." Is it quite preposterous to institute a comparison between the Jews of our Saviour's time, and the Slaveholding Christians of America?—I think not.—We know that there is much salt in the American Churches that has not lost its savor. But is there enough to save the purifying mass, may be a question.—There is much light. But is there enough to pierce the superincumbent darkness and dissipate it? We hope there is—but that that light must shine. It must not be concealed.

Churches, like nations, have their rewards and punishments in this world.—They are built up, or broken in pieces, as their course pleases or displeases the great Head.

The Jew of our Saviour's time was a great stickler for the 'old paths.' Moses and the prophets he believed in, whom his fathers killed. He garnished their sepulchers, and said if he had lived in their day he had not done so. But when one came in the spirit & power of Elijah, he said, he hath a devil. And when one greater than Elias—greater than Jonas, or Solomon, came, he shouted, crucify, crucify him! Hence all the righteous blood that had ever been shed from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zacharias the son of Barachias, who was slain between the porch and the altar, was required of that generation.

And how has the American Church in many instances trined the Representatives of Jesus?—Bound them in chains—bought them and sold them like cattle—whipped them and worked them like beasts of burden—snatched from them the key of knowledge, and the word of life—severed those whom God had joined in holiest ties—husband from wife, and wife from husband—parent from child, and child from parent. Yes, and then, as if to make damnation double sure—to cap the climax of hypocrisy, they have sold a brother to the soul driver, and put the price (accursed of God as it is) into the treasury of the Lord to send the Gospel—Glad Tidings, to the poor of other lands! Who is not prompted to exclaim with the maddened Othello in view of such doings—

"Never pray more abandon all remorse: On horror's head, horrors accumulate: Do deeds that make Heaven weep, all earth amazed: For nothing canst thou to damnation add Greater than that!"

What marked the Jewish Church as fitted for destruction? Did the Scribes and Pharisees bind heavy burdens, grievous to be borne, which they would not touch with one of their fingers?—What were all their impositions and exactions compared with the oppressions inflicted by American Ecclesiastics? "Devoured widows' houses" did they?—O, "if these modern Pharisees were satisfied with houses and lands, or anything that Jewish avarice coveted, we might almost extend to them the hand of fellowship." These devour whole families with houses and lands and then their unappetizable appetite is undamped—their gluttonous maw unfilled.—Their cry is still, "give! give!" The fabulous dragon of Wantby that swallowed whole villages was scarcely more voracious.

"Received the greater damnation," did they, for their long prayers? These not only make long prayers, but profess to be the followers and ambassadors of the meek and lowly Jesus—appointed to proclaim glad tidings to the poor—to preach deliverance to the captive, and the opening of the prison, to them that are bound. Thus during the dread artillery of Heaven—and plucking the fiery bolts on their heads. And will not God break the jaw of the wicked and pluck the spoil from their teeth? Doubtless, he will do it by means. He has given it to us, as the great moral enterprise of the age. Who is engaged in this work?—

"They fitted mint, anise, and cummin, and omit the mightier matters of the law, Judgment, Mercy and Faith." Is this characteristic of a Christianity that tolerates Slavery? See the acts of the Triennial Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. They passed certain grave resolutions censuring the practice of dancing, but rejected those which called the Heaven-daring, God-dishonoring Sin of Slavery by its right name. Admirable consistency! Most consummate hypocrisy!

Man-bating, slave-breeding, woman-whipping ecclesiastics with their foot on their brother's neck—hand-cuffs in their pockets—(a literal fact) passing censure upon those who indulge in the venial sin(?) of dancing! O shame! where is thy blush? What a mighty moral influence for good must such a course have on the world. Was Peissall, when selling indulgences to commit the grossest sins, yet gravely rebuking a poor man for eating meat on Friday—less consistent?

Again, see the Old School Assembly suspending a brother, for marrying a deceased wife's sister—blindly following the Confession of Faith in the misinterpretation of an obscure passage in theosaic code, while the plain unequivocal law of the same code—"He that stealeth a man and selleth him, or if he be found in his hands, shall surely be put to death,"

is totally disregarded—and men-stealers, men-holders, men-sellers, predominate and control the entire body. The system which they thus tolerate, sanction, and foster, places in their communion thousands whom it is impossible to discipline for any breach of the 7th commandment. Incests the most shocking and revolting in their character are known to occur.

See again, their recent decision that Baptism by a Catholic priest is not valid, right in the face of their own Book, which says the efficacy of the ordinances is not dependant on the character of the administrator. And their denial of the sinfulness of slaveholding, in diametrical opposition to former discussions!

And now I would ask, what characteristic of the Jewish church—what denunciation continued in that most terrific of all discourses—(23d Mathew) which fell from the lips of Him who spake as never man spake, is not applicable to the American slaveholding church?

But if you apply the very words of our Saviour in cases so clearly paralleled, it is called *vituperation, denunciation, and rebuke* in the form of a "handsaw" that can do no good! Though your heart may be swelling with love for the oppressor as well as the oppressed, yet if you expose sin, you may expect persecution—for the sinner's cry is still, "Prophesy not unto us right things—speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits."

But our duty is plain. Thou shalt in anywise rebuke thy neighbor and not suffer sin upon him.

J. M. B.

For the Signal of Liberty. THE LICENSE LAW.

Messrs. Editors:—I would like to inquire whether there has anything been done at your place or within your knowledge in relation to putting in force the law rendering it penal to sell intoxicating drinks without a License.—What is the reason of the universal apathy on the subject? As far as I can see and hear in the towns which voted No License, there is just about as much liquor sold as before.

Is the law good for nothing? Is there some defect about it by which it is unavoidable? Or is there not moral courage enough in community to punish a Law breaker as he deserves? Must it be that a lawless band of Hotel and Grocery keepers, by mutually contributing to insure impunity, shall be allowed to prevent right being done? As near as I can ascertain, the liquor sellers think (and with what reason let people look around them and see) that the No License Men meant when they voted No License that matters should be precisely the same or a little worse than before.

Now Messrs Editors, I am not one of these "all talk and no cide" men. I believe it to be the duty of every good man, not only to keep the law himself, but to see that others keep it. If the Supervisor, whose duty it appears to be to prosecute, refuse to do so, let him have the strongest assurance that he shall suffer the penalty of the law, and though no lawyer, I see no reason why he cannot be indicted. Let him have the assurance that in performing his duty he shall be well backed, and when the day of trial comes on let the friends of law be on hand to sympathize and encourage, and it will all go straight.—There can be failure unless the law is not enforceable. Public opinion will support those who put that law in force.

The people of this place have made up their minds to try what "virtue there is in stones," and if the sale of "Liquid Damnation" is not stopped in this place, it will not be for want of effort. Our liquor dealers must "lose the mark," if there is any virtue in the law.

It is amusing as well as mortifying to see the inconsistency of even Temperance men in this matter. "Hold on," "Hold on," is their "don't go to bring too many; you can't drive folks; you will make two enemies to one friend. Moral force is the only force proper to resort to."

Well, we expect to make enemies, and we don't care if we do. Every lawless avaricious dealer whose mind and soul is just large enough to teach him to stand behind a bar and retail liquor at three copper cents a glass, and every copper headed loafer who drinks the said glass and pays the said three "copper cents" as aforesaid, will of course be an enemy.—And as to moral force, as C. M. Clay says, "it has of often been rode on a rail." Moral force passed the law last winter, and moral force will sustain the law, if we properly assist it with the Physical. It never can be done, at any rate, by standing still, as we have done, and merely voting No License.—I see no way but to put every soul of them through a straight course—then we have a clear conscience, if nothing more.

PERRYVILLE.

Blissfield, Lenawee Co., July 20, 1845.

Incongruities of War.—A gentleman who visited the British ship Medway says he was struck with the strange mixture of good and evil presented before him.—Bibles and Prayer Books, Pilgrim's Progress, Baxter's Saint's Rest, and other religious works, were located amongst balls and bombshells, muskets, tomahawks and boarding-pikes. Warlike mottoes, such as "Britons strike home!" frowned "Always feel for the distresses of others," painted on the beams. This putting the gospel into the heart through a bullet-hole by the force of powder, is an odd proceeding.

Santa Anna was, at last dates, still at Havana, waiting advices, as was said.—He has taken a beautiful residence nine miles from Havana, for four months, expecting before the expiration of that time, to be recalled to Mexico. He was in good health and spirits.

SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1845.

One Dollar a Year in Advance.

FOR GOVERNOR, JAMES G. BIRNEY. FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, N. M. THOMAS.

"THE LAND OF BLOOD!"

We cut the following instance of barbarity and atrocious cruelty from the Emancipator. The substance of this statement appeared some weeks since in the Cincinnati Herald over the signature of G. W. Clark.

The following is an extract from a letter just received from a lady of high standing in Mississippi. How many such horrid deeds never see the light in these parts!—"My feelings have been much tried of late. About three months since, a fine dwelling house was consumed by fire at Prospect Hill, near Port Gibson, between ten and eleven o'clock at night. The papers announced the fire without assigning it to be the work of incendiaries. Shortly after, the whole truth, as was supposed, came out. The house was occupied by Mr. Wade, who is grandson of old Capt. Isaac Ross, who liberated about 200 of his slaves, at his death, to be sent to Liberia. Mr. Wade was appointed one of his executors, and promised, of course, to see the will executed.

"He refused to part with the negroes, notwithstanding after a long lawsuit, it was decided that they should be sent. The negroes knew all this, and hated him, as well as ignorant beings might. They knew they had a right to go. They saw no prospect of release. It was presumed that they were prompted by revenge to fire the dwelling. Mrs. Richardson, a sister of Mr. Wade, was visiting at his house, after an absence of several years, and many of the relations met to see her. The house was full. Mrs. R. was dreadfully burnt, and suffered terribly, although she is recovering. Her little girl, aged 8 years, was consumed! All the furniture was destroyed. The negroes were charged with the crime, and several of them confessed their guilt. Soon after, I heard from two ladies who resided near Mr. Wade, that four of the ring leaders were taken, and that they were talking of burning them! I expressed my horror! I told them the negroes had certainly been grievously wronged, and at least, should be legally punished. I observed to them that a negro was bound to death in Missouri, and another in Louisiana, and that those States were disgraced by such inhuman barbarities. They admitted that the negroes had been wronged, and said that Mr. Wade had been so sensible of their feelings towards him that he had said since the fire, not a night did he retire to rest without a loaded pistol under his head and a gun within reach, to be ready for them! Delightful state of existence! I told them I hoped the neighborhood around Mr. Wade would not suffer such an awful act to take place. A few days after, we heard that they had burned two or three of them, and shot one or two! I feel wretchedly. My husband felt as if he would leave the country. One of our merchants said, 'They deserve it; they ought to have been sent to hell!' but the most respectable part of the community condemned the transaction. But here is the misfortune. They are afraid to express their opinion. A planter, a very intelligent gentleman, said to me, one day, that he did not believe that the negroes ever set fire to the house, but believed it was an accident! He said he thought so too. He said their confessions were extorted from them by pointing bayonets at their breasts, and loaded cannon, with threats instantly to destroy them! Of course, the law would not admit of such confessions, and so they had punished the negroes themselves. Horrible enough if they were not! All the negroes are supposed by the Whites to be concerned in the fire, but they selected four, thought to be ring leaders. Forty men could arm themselves, at a late trial, (where, happily, the defendant was found guilty,) to revenge the wrongs of an unprincipled white girl, by killing the man the moment he should be acquitted. But not a voice dared to be raised publicly to censure the burning of four human beings!

I have seen a notice of the fire in a northern paper, with a statement of Mrs. R.'s, in jury and her child's death, but nothing more. How little the publisher knew the result of that fire. Fire, indeed! Our southern papers have not, to my knowledge, published the facts, and there are two published at Port Gibson.

REMARK.—The above we know, is an extract of a letter lately received in a neighboring town, from a most respectable lady residing in the State of Mississippi. We have expunged a part of the particulars given, solely because they might serve to identify the writer, and bring not only herself, but others, into danger in that LAND OF BLOOD—the most barbarous land now on the face of the earth, with, perhaps, the exception of New Zealand.

"STABBING," says the New Orleans Picayune, is the order of the day in New Orleans. Look in the columns of the daily gazettes!—Open a paper, if you can, without "More Stabbing" staring you in the face! We have become tired of recording these things, yet our duty compels us to notice them. Where is it to cease? When are men to be checked, and told, ay, made to know—that they can not stab with impunity! When will the law punish its violators and make examples of them? Is the law a farce, and are our statutes so many idle fables?

The Vicksburg Constitutional makes confession of a strange carelessness for human life in that city of bloodshed and violence.—That paper says:—"We have had several trials for murder in the Circuit Court now in session, and so indifferent are a large majority of us to the issue, that it is really difficult to learn the verdict of the jury by enquiring of any outside of the court room! Several days often elapse before we hear in the street whether a human being

has been condemned to death, or acquitted, on his trial for murder! Bodies are found dead round about and among us, some probably murdered, some suicides, and the coroner and the jury may hold their inquest in peace, without half a dozen others hearing of the awful facts! They are subjects so common as rarely to excite curiosity. A dead body in the river attracts hardly as much attention as a captured catfish struggling for liberty! We will cross the river in multitudes to witness a duel, with about the same feelings and curiosity with that we attend a circus, or a 'morkey show.' We die or are killed, buried, and forgotten in a few hours; too many of the living never think of the dead or death after Mr. Vanzile [the grave digger, we suppose] has performed his last sad duties."

COMMENCEMENT.

The annual collegiate exhibition took place in this village on Wednesday last. The occasion was graced by the presence of the Governor, and of sundry distinguished Honorables and titled gentlemen from different parts of the State. Having heard only a small part of what was said by the orators we are unable to express an opinion of the merits of the speakers.

In the afternoon we attended to hear the address of Rev. Dr. Duffield of Detroit, to the Literary Societies of the University. His subject was, "The True Scholar," and his object was to show what constitutes scholarship, and how it could be attained. His discourse inculcated system, diligence and perseverance, and was creditable to the speaker, and appropriate to the occasion. But we must say that we were sorry to hear so strong an eulogy upon "the classics," and an exhortation to spend a large amount of time and labor upon them. We consider the study of the foolish and lectionary stories of the ancient heathens about brutal and despicable heroes, gods and goddesses, and their savage wars, fights, and quarrels, as injurious to the minds of the students. At the same time, we would not dispute the Doctor's position, that no man can be an accomplished scholar without an intimate acquaintance with the Greek and Latin languages. But after all, mere scholarship, in itself, is of little practical use in the world, in accomplishing good or evil.—It has its use in the manufacture of books, but its influence is little felt in practical life. Henry Clay and Andrew Jackson were neither of them scholars, in the sense in which Dr. Duffield used the word. We doubt whether either of them could have comprehended the meaning of one half of the twenty or thirty Latin and Greek quotations made by the Doctor in this single discourse: yet these two men have exerted a mighty influence on their contemporaries, and their opinions and acts will affect the condition of millions of the next generation. Mere literary knowledge, however great in amount, apart from some practical application of it, will have very little effect upon the destinies of men.

GERRIT SMITH AND THURLOW WEED.

Mr. Smith says that he met with his 'old friend Thurlow Weed,' the columns of whose paper show that he is on the side of slave! Mr. Weed is the editor of the Albany Evening Journal; and we copy a sentence or two from the latest article we have sent from his pen, on the subject of slavery, to illustrate his friendliness to our cause. After copying into his paper the non-sensical declaration of the editor of the New Orleans Picayune, that "if a man desires to make slavery perpetual, the cheapest way to accomplish that object would be for him to contribute an annual sum to keep the abolitionists in motion," the friendly Mr. Weed says, 'there is more truth and good sense in this sentence, than we usually find compressed into five lines. Ultra abolition has greatly aggravated the horrors of slavery (!)—The most inveterate oppressors of the African race have found their best auxiliaries in the mad and reckless teachings of Garrison and Birney, &c. &c.' Only think of Gerrit Smith puffing such a man and such a paper as being on the side of the slave!—Liberator.

FARMERS' & MECHANICS' BANK.

James L. Lyell, vs. The Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of Michigan. The Chancellor gave his opinion in this case on yesterday morning at the opening of the Court. He reviewed briefly several of the points raised by the Counsel for the Bank, but based his decision mainly upon the establishment of the Chicago agency, which he held to be such an abuse of its corporate powers, as worked a forfeiture of its charter. A perpetual injunction was ordered to be entered pursuant to the prayer of Complainant's Bill; but no motion of reference for the appointment of a Receiver, has, as yet been made.

We believe that the decision comes very unexpected to most of our community, and it is understood that an appeal will be promptly taken to the Supreme Court by the Defendants. We regret that the \$150,000, of additional capital, intended for this institution, will, in consequence of this decision, be for some time delayed, if not finally denied to our city.—Det. News.

The Free Press of Thursday says:—"Brokers, we understand, are paying 62 1/2 cts. for Farmers' & Mechanics' money. Their circulation is supposed to be about \$70,000."

The number of Electors of President last year was 275. Florida will add three more in 1848, and should Texas be admitted it will be entitled to four electors, Iowa to three, and Wisconsin to three, making in all 288 Electors. Of these the Free States will have 167, and the Slave States, 121. Necessary to a choice, 145. Majority of the Free States, 46. Last year the Whigs carried 7 Free States, having 94 Electors, and 5 Slave States, having 47 Electors.

SLAVEHOLDERS MEETING.

The patriarchs of Charles County, Md. have recently had a meeting to counteract the operation of what is called "the underground railroad." All the restrictions on the slaves they can devise will be of no use, while they reside within a few miles of a line beyond which they know they can be free. This very meeting of slaveholders will itself speak trumpet-tongued to all the slaves that hear it, and every one of their regulations will remind them that many of their fellows have escaped. The Washington Union gives the following account of the proceedings of the meetings:

"At Port Tobacco, Charles county, Md., a large meeting of citizens was held on Friday last to consider what measures were most likely to put a stop to the elopement of their slaves, the recent gang arrested in Montgomery county, being owned in that vicinity. A preamble and series of resolutions were adopted recommending the appointment of an additional police and the watchful care of their masters. Votes of thanks were tendered to the citizens of Rockville for their promptness & energy, & all free negroes were notified that their presence would not be tolerated within the limits of the County after the first of December, the committee pledging itself to purchase all their property at fair prices. Ministers of the Gospel are hereafter positively prohibited from holding night meetings, for the attendance of slaves, who are not to be allowed to leave their quarters after dark, without a pass from their masters. Religious instruction during the day is not prohibited, provided one or more of their masters should be present; and the employment of free negroes at the fishing landings hereafter will not be allowed. Funds were raised to secure the enforcement of these resolves, and the meeting empowered the President to call them together again at any time that he may deem such a course necessary. A committee was also appointed to endeavor to procure from the Legislature additional legislation for the protection of their property and civil rights."

TEXAN PROBLEMS.

Some of the advocates of the Annexation of Texas, having overrode and rode down all Constitutional barriers, and being pretty confident that Texas will come in as a State, are giving themselves needless trouble about a provision in the U. S. Constitution which declares that no person shall be a Representative unless he has been seven years a citizen of the United States, nor a Senator, unless he has been a citizen of the United States for nine years, and both must be inhabitants of the State for which they are chosen. If this citizenship be nine or seven years next preceding the election, how is Texas to be supplied with Senators and Representatives? But we suppose that such a construction will not be deemed necessary by the friends of Annexation. But it is probable that only a small part of the voters of Texas have been citizens of the United States for seven or nine years at any time, and only a few of them can, therefore, upon a strict construction, be eligible to the offices of Senator or Representative.

Another question is whether criminals, now in Texas, who have escaped from the United States into Texas, must be delivered up, on demand of the State from which they fled, when Texas shall have been admitted as a State? On this there is a difference of opinion, but justice, reason, and the nature of former precedents among nations, would require them to be delivered up, if demanded by the States from which they escaped.

A correspondent wishes to have the papers for Iowa post office sent by way of Dexter, and we have directed them accordingly. We regret that our subscribers in Iowa, Clinton, and other northern counties are so much incommoded by the long delay in getting their papers. We have endeavored to ascertain the cause, and find it attributed to the plan of carrying most of the mails on horseback for these counties, which are fast becoming populous; and by this means a part of the mails sometimes lay over on account of their bulk. We will do the best we can to accommodate our subscribers in that section; and our Postmaster here will send their packages by any route they may wish.

RIGHT, MR. GREELY!—Alluding to some bombastic nonsense of the Texas Democracy, concerning Gen. Jackson, the New York Tribune says very justly:—"How a slave trader, or even holder, can be a 'Chieftain of Democracy,' entirely passes our comprehension." And with equal justice he remarked—though not in the same article—that Henry Clay, equally a slave trader and slaveholder with Andrew Jackson.—"that Henry Clay was the embodiment of Democratic Whig principles!"—H. Herald.

The Magnetic Telegraph, if found to be materially useful, will soon be in operation in every part of the United States, as the expense of construction is very light. The N. Y. Tribune says:—"The contract for building the Magnetic Telegraph from Rochester to Lockport and Buffalo, has been taken by Messrs. Livingston & Wells, who have already made a contract for the wire; and the Telegraph will probably be in operation in two months. The arrangement for the lines from New York to Boston via Springfield, from New York to Boston, and from New York to Philadelphia, are now completed."

Miss Delia Webster has published her book of 284 pages containing an account of her trial and imprisonment in Kentucky. From the notices we have seen of it, it seems that she was not guilty of being an abolitionist in any practical sense; for she declares that she is and ever has been, 'as bitterly opposed to what is called negro-stealing as the Kentuckians themselves,' and that she 'cherished a high respect for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and does not consider the State to blame for her persecution.'

THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

Since the first settlement of the U. States lawyers have held a prominent place in the public councils, and shared largely of public offices and emoluments. Especially has this been the case since the adoption of a republican government. It has now become an established maxim that the legal profession is the high road to political distinction, to public honors, and to private wealth; and fathers are found constantly urging their sons to enter the law, as the legitimate means of obtaining renown for themselves and a share in the power of controlling the nation. The youth is pointed to the lessons of experience. Every President of the United States except one has been a lawyer; viz: the two Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Van Buren, Harrison, Tyler, and Polk. Washington only was not a lawyer. All their competitors were lawyers, so far as their profession is known to us. The Vice Presidents and their numerous competitors were also lawyers. In examining the list we do not perceive a single exception. If now we look at the distinguished individuals whose names have been mentioned for the highest offices of the nation, how many can we find that are not lawyers? Webster, Davis, Fillmore, Birney, Seward, Frelinghuysen, Buchanan, Van Buren, Rives, Clay, Calhoun, McLean, McDuffie, Walker, and many others are lawyers. A majority of the Governors of the States we presume are lawyers. A few years since, 59 of the 48 U. States Senators were lawyers. And if they are thus successful in filling the highest offices of the nation, we may be pretty certain that they also hold a large proportion of the inferior offices. They take the lead in the legislative halls—they are prominent as speech makers in every public assembly—they are intimately connected with the banking and moneyed institutions of the country, and have a large control over the Press.

Yet the lawyers are few in number, compared with the farmers, merchants, or most classes of mechanics. In Michigan it is supposed there are 350, or a little more than one to a thousand of the population. The proportion is probably considerably less in the Eastern and Southern States. The actual number in the whole country may not be far from 12,000.

It becomes, then, a matter of some interest to the other classes of community to ascertain, if possible, how it is that a very small minority—a thousandth part of the whole—can possibly outstrip them in the race of political ambition, of public fame, and of national emoluments, and appropriate to themselves almost any portion they please. Is the pre-eminence the result of their business, or of their superior mental endowments, or greater knowledge? There must be some adequate reason for a result which has prevailed for so long a time, through so many States, and which is yet in full operation.

There is no reason to suppose that lawyers are endowed by nature beyond the generality of men. In original depth and solidity of mind, they are not superior to the clergy, the medical faculty, or to the more intellectual portion of the merchants, farmers, or mechanics.

Nor is their pre-eminence to be attributed to their superior advantages for education; for many of the most eminent of them, like Henry Clay and Thomas Morris, never had the advantages of a collegiate course of study.

Nor do they make their way through the world by large fortunes, powerful friends, or patrician ancestors. A large portion of them are from the middling and lower ranks of society.

But they owe their success in life mainly to the nature of their business. This will be seen by analyzing it in a few particulars.

1. A knowledge of the Law involves a knowledge of the fundamental principles upon which all governments are administered. Hence, in fact, the study of the Law embraces the study of all that is most valuable in Politics or the science of Government. No man can be even a tolerable lawyer without understanding the Constitution of his country and of his particular State, and the rights and duties of citizens, and those general maxims of expediency and of moral obligation on which all laws are founded, in all countries. But a man may build an excellent ship or a steam engine, or an elegant house, or he may be a skilful farmer, without understanding the powers and duties of a President, a Secretary of State, of a Governor, or indeed of any public officer. He may have excellent judgement and ability in his profession, but without a knowledge of the general principles of government he will not be qualified to govern, nor will he be elected to fill an office of which he knows nothing, while there are multitudes aspiring to the situation who are familiar with its duties, and qualified to discharge them creditably to themselves, and with advantage to the State. Suppose a ship's crew of 500 persons to be wrecked on a desert island, and about to settle there, and establish a permanent government. Suppose a committee to be appointed for that purpose, would not a person who had been all his days familiar with the principles of law and government be more likely to obtain a situation on that committee than one who had never bestowed a moment's thought on the subject? And after the government had been established, would not those who were familiar with the duties of public officers be quite as likely to fill them as those who were utterly ignorant of their requirements? These principles are operating with us every day on a large scale. Those who have acquainted themselves with the principles of government, and the manner of governing, will be called to administer the government in preference to those who are unacquainted with all that is transacting in soci-

ety. His business is to read, write, and talk continually; and his pen, thoughts, and tongue are occupied with the usual transactions of society. Hence, from the very nature of his business, he must be informed on matters of public interest to a greater extent than those who get their living by their physical labor. Hence, in a promiscuous assembly, lawyers, as a class, will appear to better advantage than any class of laborers.

5. A third reason is found in the ability they acquire of putting their ideas readily and correctly upon paper. A superficial thinker may perhaps regard this as a very small attainment; and yet it is most intimately connected with all intellectual progress, and is a pre-requisite for permanent intellectual distinction. He who can think profoundly, has one important element of greatness; he who can convey his thoughts with force and effect upon paper, has another and valuable qualification for eminence. Dr. Franklin esteemed this latter acquisition important enough to require long continued and systematic efforts for its acquisition. Besides, the power of writing readily and efficiently, is a qualification not so generally possessed as supposed. Vast numbers of business men find a difficulty in writing an advertisement of any length for a newspaper. The farmers and mechanics, who comprise nine-tenths of the people, rarely practice in composing. The merchants consider their intellectual intercourse chiefly in their own business; the physicians have little occasion to write except for friendship or amusement, while clergymen are precluded by their profession from the arena of politics and business. Whereas in this arena it is that the lawyer has his chief scope of action, and by continued practice, he can scarcely fail to express himself in writing with facility, while the many catches in his profession will lead him to discriminate closely as to the expressions he uses. In this respect, then—in facility of intellectual composition upon business transactions, the lawyers have the means of being ahead of every other class of persons.

4. Another reason of the prominence of lawyers is the habit of speaking in public. A republican government has been justly termed a "Logocracy," or government by speech-making. Not an event of any importance whatever can take place without one or more speeches upon it. When a President is to be elected, it is done by innumerable speeches; his first business is to take the oath of office and make a speech; when he travels he is greeted every where by speeches, which he makes speeches annually while in office, and when he dies, his virtues are every where celebrated in speeches. If a railroad is to be built, a church to be enlarged, two school districts to be made into one, a postmaster removed, or a foreign nation attached to ours, it cannot be done without speeches; and they who are familiar with public speaking will be the most acceptable to the hearers, will be called upon the most, and will thereby acquire a prominence and influence far greater than they are entitled to by their extent of knowledge or solidity of judgment. It is seldom that you can find a farmer or mechanic who can speak at length to the gratification of an audience; and unless the audience are gratified they will not be disposed to hear or profit by his counsel. On all such occasions, farmers and mechanics must therefore suffer themselves to be eclipsed by lawyers who may be far their inferiors in mental power and energy.

5. The last reason we shall mention of the great influence of lawyers is, their intimate connection with the most important transactions of society. All important transfers of real estate pass through their hands, and all disputes about real or personal property are discussed by lawyers at the bar, and determined by lawyers on the bench. The lawyers write the agreements of the living, and the last will and testament of those who are about to die. They draw the contracts for railroads, and argue the constitutionality of banks. They also take charge of the lives and personal liberty of all their fellow citizens.

Is any one accused of crime? He straitway commits himself and his destiny to the advocacy of a lawyer. They are the living exponents of all law. Not only so, but they have a very great influence in making the laws.—To be convinced of their ascendancy in the Legislature, we have only to consider that the population of the State is nearly 500,000; that the whole number of Legislators is 70, being one Legislator to 4,500 people; that the whole number of lawyers in the State is about 350; and if each calling and profession were entitled to its just proportion of members, the number of lawyers in the State must be doubled to entitle the profession to one member in the Legislature. Whereas the number of lawyers in the last Legislature we suppose was at least a dozen, and probably more, thus showing that the lawyer had a representation about 24 times greater than that to which their numbers entitled them.

But this is not all; for every one knows that in the actual business of legislation, the lawyers exert an influence vastly superior to that of the same number of the other members. They do nearly all the talking, write most of the reports, and take the lead on committees, and on the most important items of business. Most of the other members do but little besides voting yea and nay on propositions originated by lawyers. Thus the profession act not only as the sole expounders of the laws, but they have a potent if not a controlling influence in giving them existence, form and shape.

If, then, the ascendancy of lawyers in political life be owing to their business,—or, in other words, to their knowledge of the general principles of government, to their familiarity with business affairs, to a facility of speaking and writing upon them readily and acceptably, and to the importance of the interests committed to them,—it is evident that no other class of men can hope to rival them in public estimation until they can justly lay claim to their qualifications. Accordingly, we find that there are but two classes which approximate to them in political influence—editors and politicians by profession, approbiously called "office-seekers"—and these attain the

share of influence they possess only by having a general knowledge of political principles and facts, and a facility in communicating them.

It is absurd, therefore, for the farmers and mechanics to be envious toward lawyers as though they assumed more than belonged to them. Their superiority is not owing in all cases, we admit, to superior moral worth, or superior mental power; for some of them are remarkable for small literary requirements, meagre abilities, and consummate knavery; but even these have that kind of Skill and Knowledge of business matters which enables them to be successful knaves. The only way by which other classes can hope to compete with lawyers in influence will be by competing with them in those qualifications, whether honorable or otherwise, by which their influence is acquired and maintained.

Hereafter we intend to say something of the manner in which this influence of the legal profession is made to affect the welfare of society.

JUDGE LYNCH IN ANN ARBOR.

That important personage, known as Judge Lynch, has been absent from our village for a long time, but has recently paid his respects to some of our citizens and politely left his card at their dwellings, and places of business.

At the Township Election in April, the town voted "No License" by a majority of 125. At the charter election in July, the legal voters determined for "No License" by about 35 majority. The consequence was that many of the dealers in Ardent Spirits were compelled to stop selling, or sell in defiance of the Law. Prosecution having been commenced against several who had taken the latter alternative, a manifestation of the feelings of that portion of community was determined on, which was designed, doubtless, to strike terror into all who would oppose these violations of the Law. On Sunday night August 2d, the store of D. & E. Lesuer, was visited by them, the door and window shutters bedaubed and inscribed, "No License, Judge Lynch is after you." The evening before the store was cut and damaged. The operators then passed on to the store of Beckley, Foster & Co. where they made a similar inscription, defaced the door, and bedaubed the awning with tar. The dwelling house of E. Lesuer was honored with a visit, his door pointed blue, and a threatening inscription left. The barn of Dr. M. H. Cowles was inscribed, "No License, Beware! Judge Lynch." The barn of D. T. McCollum was honored with a similar inscription; the front door of his dwelling house was variegated with large samples of blue, and the well used by him and R. Davidson was defiled by pouring into it what appears to be a mixture of tar, turpentine and oil. This composition has rendered the well useless, for the present at least, as all efforts to remove the impurities have failed. Judge Lynch, passing on his way to our dwelling, stopped a moment to deposit a considerable sprinkling of his defecable compound in the well of Beckley, which has thereby been rendered useless. The front door of our dwelling house was changed in color from white to blue, and we were complimented by a look from his honor, pointed on our fence—"Look out, old chap! Judge Lynch."

Had these proceedings been the mere effervescence of youthful depravity, performed out of sheer wantonness or love of mischief, our citizens would have felt less disposed to inquire after the perpetrators. But as it was evidently a part of a plan of intimidation and threatening, on the part of those who were disposed to favor the violation of the law, to be followed up, perhaps, by future aggressions, they determined not to let it pass unnoticed.—Two individuals have been arrested on a charge of committing these outrages, and their examination is progressing at the time our paper goes to press.

NEW YORK TRIBUNE.

In a late number of this paper we noticed an article, dated at Ann Arbor, and signed "A Wolverine," purporting to be an exposure of a system of frauds and deceptions, of a flagrant character perpetrated by some legal practitioners of this place upon New York Merchants, who have forwarded their demands to this village for collection by law.—We cannot but regard the general tenor of the article, as it will be apprehended by the cursory reader, as injurious to the reputation of our village, and to the character and credit of our business men. The hundred thousand readers of the Tribune will infer from the article that there is a considerable and influential class of our citizens, who get splendid livings by these robberies and frauds practised upon New York merchants; and the capitalists of that city will become suspicious of our merchants and business men. That iniquities of the kind referred to in the Tribune may have been occasionally practised upon New York capitalists may be true here as in other places, although we know of no such instances; but we believe that the transactions of our business men, both lawyers and merchants, with eastern capitalists, have been and are as honorable and upright as in any other place in the West. Any impression that may in any way be conveyed to the contrary we conceive to be opposed to the truth and to be an unjust aspersion upon our business men, and injurious to the character and reputation of our village.

CLINTON AND SHIAWASSEE CONVENTION.

We are requested to state that Mr. Stewart, who is announced as a probable speaker at this Convention cannot be present, but that Mr. Bibb, the celebrated fugitive from Slavery will attend, and narrate his thrilling story.—Mr. Stewart's professional engagements alone prevent his attendance.

ELECTIONS IN AUGUST.

A number of important elections are to come off in the month of August, involving the choice of 47 representatives, and (in Tennessee) one senator in Congress. They are as follows: North Carolina, August 7, Legislature and 9 members of Congress; Tennessee, 7th, Governor, Legislature, and 11 members of Congress; Kentucky, 4th, Legislature and 10 members of Congress; Indiana, 4th, Legislature and 10 members of Congress; Alabama, 4th, Legislature and 7 members of Congress; Illinois, 4th, Legislature; Missouri, 4th, Legislature.

WISCONSIN.

The annual meeting of the Wisconsin Liberty Association was held at Delavan on the 2d inst., and was an encouraging occasion, both from the number present and the spirit exhibited. We expect much from Wisconsin. A subscription was raised of thirteen additional shares in the stock of the Freeman. The executive committee have engaged the services of Martin Mitchell, Esq., of St. Lawrence county, N. Y., and Eldor Edward Mathews, to act as agents of the Liberty Association, in lecturing and collecting funds, procuring subscribers for the Freeman, and to promote the cause of liberty in the territory.—Emancipator.

OREGON.

The latest advices from this country represent that a very bad feeling exists between the settlers and the Indians, and some of the latter have been shot for trivial offences. This prejudice extends also to the half-breed population, and it was lately discovered that some 30 or 40 persons had entered into a conspiracy to destroy all the half-breeds and foreigners, and they were alone prevented from prosecuting their enterprise by the smallness of their party.

FOREIGN NEWS.

SYRIA.

The accounts from Syria are unfavorable. The armistice between the Druses and Maronites had been broken and the civil war renewed. The accounts from Alexandria state that the Druses first broke the truce by pillaging the churches and convents, and murdering the priests, and now both parties are burning each other's mulberry and other trees. The consequence is that thousands of people are starving.

ITALY.

We learn, from private letters received in this city, that arrests have been very numerous of late in the Roman States, and that the public excitement is even greater than before. At Ravenna some young men appeared on the piazza with the cries of "Giu il Papa!" (Down with the Pope!) when the chief of the Police having ordered the carabinieri (soldiers) to fire upon them, the people rose, and massacred them all.

TEXAS.

The following letter is from the correspondence of the N. O. Picayune, and evinces great unanimity in Texas in favor of Annexation.

"AUSTIN, July 7, 1844.

"The Convention assembled on the morning of the 4th, and unanimously elected Gen. Rusk to preside over the deliberations. On taking the chair he made a short address which was well delivered and suitable to the occasion. A committee of fifteen was soon after appointed, who reported by their chairman, Judge Lipscomb, an ordinance assenting, on behalf of the people of Texas, to the terms of Annexation proposed by the United States Government. It was adopted with one dissenting voice—but five members absent. It was engrossed and signed by all the members present. Is it not a little singular that the only dissenting voice was Richard Bache, the father-in-law of your Secretary of the Treasury, and brother-in-law of the Vice President?"

"After the necessary resolutions passed for the transmission of the ordinance to the United States, a resolution was offered by Col. Love, and unanimously adopted—"That the members wear crapes on their left arm for one month, as a testimony of regret for the decease of Gen. Jackson." Whatever differences of opinion may exist, as regards his political acts, elsewhere, Texas owes him a debt of gratitude. To him we are indebted for the privileges of becoming a member of the Great American Union—a measure so important to us, and I hope to you. The Convention then adjourned. It was a novel celebration of the Liberty Day—to surrender the Independence of our nation, and by the act of the whole people, assent to its incorporation with another, and offer a tribute of respect to the man through whose influence the measure was consummated.

"On the 5th we appointed committees on the plan adopted by the Virginia Convention, to report on the various subjects submitted. It called forth some discussion which was creditable to the speakers—it was the skirmish that precedes more heavy firing.

"The delegates to the convention, for intelligence, integrity and worth, would rank high in any country. There is not, perhaps, much of brilliancy, but a great deal of matter-of-fact sense and sound knowledge; and I predict that we shall form and send you a sound and sensible

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WISCONSIN.

It is in vain for the government of the United States to make war on its citizens for the crime of carrying letters cheaper than it will itself carry them.—The only way to avoid difficulty will be to carry them cheaper than any company or private person can, and then it will have the undisputed monopoly of the whole business. The penal provisions, as we anticipated, are disregarded on the more profitable routes, and the violators of the law are in favor with the people. The N. Y. correspondence of the Boston Post writes:—

"The postmaster-general of the United States has issued a prosecution against Mr. James W. Hale, for alleged violations of the new postage bill. Private expressers have not been discontinued in this quarter. Far from it. They are now doing as large a business as ever, carrying letters at half the government rates. And it appears that they are sustained by public opinion. The new postage act did not abate what is called "private enterprise," and the act itself, it is thought, will soon be found to be insufficient."

The Frankfort Yeoman denies the truth of the story to which we referred two or three weeks since, respecting Col. Johnson and the bargain he made with Maj. Figg to pass as the real killer of Tecumseh till the Major should be a candidate for office. The Yeoman says:—

"It is only necessary to say that Col. Johnson does not live at the Great Crossings; that at the date of the letter from him he was on his way to Washington City; that General Meade has not been in Scott county this year, and that two days after the date of the last letter purporting to be from Col. Johnson then at the Great Crossings, he dined with the editor of this paper in Frankfort, on his way home from below, and authorized us then to say that he did not know such a man as Major Lewis Figg—had never written such a letter as that published over his name in Figg's handbill, and that it was all a hoax or forgery."

The three Ohioans, captured on the free side of the Ohio river, were taken before a Virginia magistrate, and remanded to jail, to be tried before the Superior Court in Virginia in September. The Virginians claim jurisdiction to the top of the bank of the river on the free side; whereas, for 25 years, low water mark has been recognized as the boundary of the Northwest.

A large State Teacher's Convention has been held at Syracuse, New York. Among other topics, the Convention discussed the propriety of using corporal punishment in schools. They were unanimous, we believe, in the opinion, that the power of using the rod should remain with the teacher, but it should be exercised as little as possible.

A young man named Henry Warburton was apprehended picking pockets during the execution of Connor the murderer. So much for gallows instruction and example.

The Eastern Liberty men intend to have a great Eastern Convention, to be held at Boston, sometime in September or October.

Commercial.

ANN ARBOR, Aug. 3, 1845.

Business yet presents a dull appearance.—Wheat comes in only in small quantities, and finds a sale at 56 cents. The operation of threshing is going on extensively in the country, and in a few weeks there will be a large amount ready for market. The straw is generally short and quite dry, the heads full, and the berry plump, and hence the grain is easily threshed by machines, while the yield fully equals the expectations of the farmers. But they are rather unwilling to sell at 56 cents, when their circumstances will allow them to wait, inasmuch as Wheat is certain to bring at least 62 cents in this market, at some time in the year.

The Philadelphia Ledger referring to the continuance of Expresses in violation of the Post Office law, says:—"The consequence, if persisted in, may be a strong attempt to repeal the present law, and to have the old rates and old system re-established."

We should like to see the man who would be fool-hardy enough "to attempt" to re-establish the old Post Office law. He would need to be as "strong" as Hercules, and as patient as Job.

Nine of the 24 fugitives who left Maryland in a body, escaped to Canada by way of Oswego. They were pursued by the man catchers, but without success. We presume that nearly or quite half of the whole number will elude all pursuit.

MARRIED.

On the 3d inst., by Rev. G. Beckley, Mr. Jesse H. QUAGLIARINI, and Miss ALMIRA LYTEL, both of Ann Arbor.

Another case of SEVERE ASTHMA relieved by two bottles of the "Oleum." Mrs. Bell, the wife of Robert P. Bell, of Morrisown, N. J. who had been afflicted with ASTHMA for many years was given up by the physicians, who said they could not relieve her, and advised her being removed to the seaboard in the hope that a change of air would prove serviceable. It proved of no avail. One bottle of the Oleum was given her, and she was able to get up from her bed and dress herself, and she had not before in months, and she has now returned to her residence in Morrisown, N. J., with every prospect of being speedily restored.

Mrs. McGinn, 33 Walker street was cured of ASTHMA by half a bottle of the Oleum, which she never knew a medicine give immediately and perfect relief like it. She has since recommended it to many of her friends who have used it with the same happy effects. W. S. & J. W. MAYNARD, Agents, for Ann Arbor.

SHIAWASSEE AND CLINTON CONVENTION.

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

And we earnestly entreat every liberty man in the two counties, to consecrate one day in the year in behalf of the down-trodden of our land; to greet each other face to face, exchange friendly salutations; and pledge ourselves anew to each other, and to God and to the suffering victim of American oppression—that we will never cease our efforts until every bond shall be broken, and every slave a free man. Sometime during the Convention a candidate for Representative to the Legislature, will be nominated to be supported at the November election.

J. B. BURNS, } Com. for Shi-  
R. W. HAWLEY, } wasssee Co.  
MUNNIS KENNY, } Clinton Co.  
JOSEPH SEVER, }  
Owosso, July 23, 1845.

See editorial about this Convention.

RECEIPTS FOR THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

Opposite each subscriber's name will be found the amount he has paid, with the number and date of the paper to which it pays.  
J. G. Tucker, 1.00, to 271, or July 23, 1846  
S. J. Paine, 2.00, to 297, or Jan. 2, 1847  
H. S. Bradley, 1.00, to 583, or Oct. 12, 1846  
E. S. Fish, 0.60, to 291, or Nov. 21, 1846

ANN ARBOR QUARTERLY MEETING.

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

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT MEETING.

The Preschers and Delegates appointed within the bounds of the Ann Arbor District, are respectfully requested to meet in Ypsilanti on the 17th of September next at 1 o'clock. Come up, dear brethren, prepared to respond to the following inquiries:—  
1. Shall the Circuits within our bounds be divided? If so, where shall these divisions be made?  
2. What number of preachers shall we employ within our bounds next year, and how much can be raised upon each Circuit for their support?  
W. P. ESLER, Chm'n.

In Chancery—1st Circuit.

George F. Porter, administrator of Oliver Kane, deceased, complainant, vs. Loren Mills, Elijah W. Morgan, and William S. Morgan, defendants. BY virtue of a decree of the court of the State of Michigan, I shall expose to sale to the highest bidder, at the Court House in the Village of Ann Arbor,

