

# THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

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

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1846.

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T. FOSTER,  
G. BECKLEY, } Editors.

## THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY

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THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY: ANN ARBOR, MICH.

## ANTISLAVERY.

### THE MAN-MARKET AT WASHINGTON.

The following, from the Albany Patriot, is enough to melt a heart of stone; yet it is but one of the thousand similar cases constantly occurring in this free land. How long shall the piracy that allows such deeds be tolerated, under the name of law, at the nation's capital?

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1845.

CHARLES A. WHEATON, Esq. Syracuse.

Dear Friend—Your letter of inquiry about the case of Sarah Carter, to your brother, Mr. Morace Wheaton, M. C., was put into my hands by him. I suppose it was referred to me, because it seemed appropriate to come within the scope of business assigned to the heron of humanity. I have thought it proper, therefore, to submit a brief report directly through you to our mutual constituents and associates. I hope the offering will not be wholly destitute of interest or practical value.

Thomas Monroe formerly came from Annapolis, Md., to this city, and was City Postmaster, probably, through the Administration of Mr. Monroe, and that of Mr. Adams. Upon the accession of Gen. Jackson and his friends to power, he was displaced. He is now an old man—wealthy—of the higher aristocratic class, and a member of St. John's Church, which is within rifle-shot of the bronze statue of Jefferson, standing in front of the President's house. Many years ago he bought a woman and her two young daughters from Prince George's County, Md., where they were raised by Bishop Mendel. The mother has now been dead some years. One of the children, by the name of Sarah, grew to maturity and became the cook and maid of all work in Mr. Monroe's family. She had two daughters by some connection, in respect to which I have received no definite information. One of these daughters, a few years ago fortunately made her escape from here, and now resides in your village, as I am informed. The other is still here, a slave, the property of a Mr. Walsh.

The week that Com. Decatur was killed by Com. Barron in a duel, which I find to be 22d March, 1820, a man, by the name of Luke Carter, who had obtained his freedom, went to live with Mr. Monroe, as his coachman. Subsequently he became the husband of Sarah, who has been before referred to. He has continued to serve Mr. Monroe on wages from that time up to last October—twenty-five years and a half—without reproach or complaint. The Carters have raised five children, who served the old master's family as they became old enough. Mr. Monroe, for many years past, has rented them a small tenement at the corner of his yard, for which Carter paid him two dollars a month regularly, deducted from his wages, which were twelve. The children have all been provided for by the father and the extra exertion of the mother. Mr. Monroe has never paid a dollar for them in any way, has never provided food or clothes. Carter's wages have all been consumed in bringing up his family. In the meantime, the eldest daughter of this family had reared seven children of her own. These two families, as you perceive, consisted of Sarah Carter, and five children—her eldest daughter, Mary, also having seven children—in all thirteen. Some day in October last, Mr. Monroe, without a previous hint to them, or any alleged reason, sold these families to Williams, the broker in humanity in this city. By the way, Monroe owns the Post, as it is called, and rents it to Williams, on a lease of five years at a time. Immediately Williams ran them off to Richmond. Poor Carter had not an opportunity to say farewell, or shed a father's and husband's tear over them at parting.

In a day or two, however—as soon as he could recover a little from the stunning effects of the calamity, by which he had been so suddenly stricken down, he followed them to Richmond. He found them, and learned they had been sold on the block to a trader from Nashville, and were destined to the Georgia market in the first instance. He applied to Wilson, the trader, to know on what terms he would sell his family to him. He consented to take \$3,500 for them; and gave Carter a memorandum to that effect; but afterward, by a trick, got it away from him. Carter, half beside himself, uncertain what to do, came back again, and for a few days tried to resign himself, as best he could, to the overwhelming cup of sorrow. He could not sleep, and his eyes were red and swollen. He consulted with his friends, and obtaining some articles of necessity and comfort to carry to his family, he started back, and found them near Richmond, at a little place called Manchester.

## DR. SNODGRASS AND THE MARYLAND SLAVEHOLDERS.

The motion by Mr. Claggett, in the Maryland House of Representatives, calling on the Governor to order legal proceedings against the editor of the Baltimore Visitor, came up for discussion, January 23. The mover is from Prince George's county, and a large slaveholder. In opening the debate, he turned the hall for the time, into an abolition lecture-room, by reading various spicy articles against slavery which have been from time to time inserted in the Visitor. It must have been very edifying to the slaveholders!

Mr. Hook thought that action in the matter was calculated to give the accused too much importance, and to enlist the aid of those friendly to abolition. He desired to see all such men, who utter the sentiments which the editor, safely lodged in the penitentiary for life, but thought as a matter of policy, he should not be noticed by the Legislature.

Mr. Edge, a slaveholder, though raised in Pennsylvania, said he would go as far as any man to protect the laws of the State, but could not favor the resolution upon principles of policy. He thought it would be in violation of privilege of the press, under the bill of rights, and calculated to do no good, but, on the contrary, to bring excitement.

Mr. Claggett, in a zealous reply, declared it as his opinion that, if a fear of excitement was to deter gentlemen standing here as the grand inquest of the State, from doing duty, it was high time the people should know their position. As a slaveholder, he could not consent to hold his hand while men stood with clubs and knives in hand at the very threshold of our peaceful homes and firesides.

Mr. Bowie offered a substitute, directing the Attorney General to inquire whether any paper in Baltimore is violating the law of 1835, against the circulation of incendiary papers. This was carried, under the previous question. The editor of the Visitor takes it like a man, and rejoices in the proof which the slaveholders are this giving of the deadly character of their institution, since it cannot bear the light of the press. He says—

"The effect of this movement on our own mind, already, has been to nerve us for the trying duties of our position. In view of our duty to our fellow men and an spirit of charity to the slaveholders, as that class of men to which we ourselves have belonged, as one consequence of the rectitude of our course, we are determined to struggle on—in hope that we shall yet see Maryland stand forth among her unsaddled sisters, proudly freed."

As soon as the resolution was passed, Dr. S. sent a bold memorial to the legislature. A more extended report of Claggett's speech appeared in the Baltimore Argus, abounding with the most unfair abuse and false charge. Dr. S. sent to the same paper a correction of the slanders, and on being barely refused admission to that paper, he issued an extra sheet, which he spread among community. We wait with deep interest the result of this new attempt of the slaveholders to overthrow the freedom of the Press.—*Emancipator.*

## MORAL COURAGE.

The following from C. M. Clay's True American sounds right.

"But what is the courage of the battle field compared with moral courage of every day life? Stand alone; see friends scowl; hear distrust speak its foul suspicion; watch enemies taking advantage of the occasion, laboring to destroy; who would not rather encounter the shock of a hundred battle fields, and lead a forlorn hope in one, than bare and brave these things? Why one is as the summer breeze on the ocean to winter's stormiest blast. Any common spirit may summon courage to play the soldier well; use quickly his lim for life. But it requires a man to speak out his thoughts as he thinks them—to do—when like that stormy blast in winter on old oak, a peace, honor, security, and life are threatened to be swept away."

Yet who, looking back upon the page of history, or forward to the hope of the future, would hesitate which of the two to choose.—The martyrs—where are they? Chronicled names in all hearts. The patriots who died for liberty, ignominiously and on the scaffold; how fares it with them? Cherished as earth's honored sons. The good—who spoke the truth and suffered for its sake—where are they? Like men they spoke the truth that was in them. This was their courage.—If they had been silent, if trembling before tyrants or mobs, they had feared to tell what they knew, to speak what they felt, they would have lived and died as other men. But they had the moral courage to do all this; and though they perished, man was blessed through their sacrifice, and truth lighted up with new glory and power.

Give us moral courage before every thing else! It is the only bravery on which humanity may count for any real blessing. Give us moral courage first and last. For while it nerves a man for duty, it roots out of his heart hate and revenge, and all passion, making him wise amid danger, calm amid excitement, just amid lawlessness, and pure amid corruption. It is the crowning beauty of manhood."

Anti-Slavery Petitions.—Personally, we feel no interest in them. Many years have passed since we signed any anti-slavery petitions. We shall never sign another, till Congress become a decent assembly. We would as soon think of prostrating ourselves at the foot of the grand Turk, as presenting an anti-slavery petition to that body. We vote—and had we not that right, would prefer exercising a very different right from that of praying.—*Cin. Herald.*

A thief one night entered the chamber of a poor man, and commenced a vigorous search. The man being awakened by the noise, very coolly addressed the impudent thief as follows:—"My friend, what do you expect to find here in the night, where I cannot find anything at daylight?"

## PROCEEDINGS.

OF THE YOUNG MEN'S LIBERTY ASSOCIATION, HELD AT MARSHALL.

Monday, Feb. 5, 1846.

Convention called to order at 11 o'clock, A. M. by S. J. M. Hammond, the President.

Wm. C. Hoyt was appointed Assistant Secretary.

On motion of J. N. Stickney, Resolved, That we dispense with ordinary formality of receiving credentials and making a roll, and cordially invite all gentlemen present, who adopt our principles as expressed in Art. 2d, of our constitution, to join our deliberations as members of this convention.

On motion, the following gentlemen were appointed a business committee: J. N. Stickney, S. S. Nichols, A. C. Eastland, E. W. Shaw, J. C. Gallup.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to nominate officers of the Association, and to designate the place of holding the next meeting: Henry Montague, Daniel Bradford, J. B. Buel, Geo. Ingersoll, Geo. Dell.

On motion, the convention adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M.

Convention called to order by the President.

Letters were read from members of the Association who were absent.

The business committee reported a series of resolutions, which report was accepted.

The committee on nominations reported: re-nominating the following gentlemen for officers of the Association for the ensuing year, which report was accepted and adopted, viz:

President—S. J. M. HAMMOND, St. Jo.

V. Pres.—S. M. HOLMES, of Wayne.

W. C. DENNISON, of Kal'm.

S. B. TRAYER, of Calhoun.

LELAND GREEN, of Oakland.

LYMAN P. PERKINS, of Lou'e.

Recor. and Cor. Sec'y, J. M. TREADWELL, Jackson.

Treasurer—GUY FOOTE, Jackson.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Edmund Hall, Detroit; Dr. J. C. Gallup, Genessee; Jerome M. Treadwell, Francis F. Young and Guy Foote, Jackson.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Wayne—T. T. Lyon, Plymouth; Geo W. Swift, Nankin; Francis Raymond, Det.

Oakland—Joseph A. Peck, Pontiac; Dr. R. Gillfill, White Lake; E. H. Fairchild, Hillsdale.

Genessee—D. W. C. Leach, J. G. Sutherland, Henry C. Fairbanks, Fentonville, Hillsdale & A. STATE.

Shiawassee—Dr. J. B. Barnes, Owosso; C. P. Parkhill, J. M. Goodhue.

Monroe—Mr. — Holley, Monroe; S. P. Munger, Dundee.

Washtenaw—Gorge Millard, Dexter; F. W. Collins, Pittsfield; C. J. Garland, Ann Arbor.

Lenawee—Gerge L. Crane, Adrian; Joel Carpenter, Blissfield; J. M. Barrows, Franklin.

Hillsdale—David M. Bagley, Hillsdale; Lemuel Long, Litchfield; W. D. Moore, Adams.

Kalamazoo—Henry Montague, Asa C. Eastland, Kalamazoo; F. W. Hatch, Schoolcraft.

St. Joseph—William Case, S. J. M. Hammond, Centreville; Albert H. Strong, Constantine.

Jackson—T. R. Harrison, Clark K. Hendee, Jackson; D. M. Graham, Spring Arbor.

Eaton—Johnson Montgomery, Eaton Rapids; J. W. Bancroft, C. M. Cady, Olivet.

Branch—John D. Zimmerman, Horatio N. Blackman, Amasa Waters, Union City.

Berrien—John Orr, John J. Alexander, Niles.

Calhoun—Dr. Thayer, S. S. Nichols, Battle Creek; George Ingersoll, Marshall.

It was on motion,

Resolved, That the central committee be authorized to fill any vacancies in the executive committee.

The committee also reported the first Wednesday in June next and Ann Arbor, as the time and place of the next meeting, which report was adopted.

After the discussion of resolutions, the convention was favored with a Liberty song from Messrs. Bancroft and Cady.

On motion, adjourned to 7 o'clock P. M.

The convention having assembled, listened to an address from the Pres't.

The discussion of resolutions reported by the committee was resumed, and addresses made by Messrs. Treadwell, Stewart, Gurney, Dr. Gallup, Dresser and others, when, after being severally read, they were adopted.

On motion, the convention adjourned to

meet at Ann Arbor, the first Wednesday in June next.

S. J. M. HAMMOND, Pres't.

J. M. TREADWELL, W. C. HOYT, Secretaries.

## RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were passed during the meetings of the Association.

Resolved, That the Liberty party in our land, is a party, and the only party in existence that has for its object, or is calculated to effect the abolition of Slavery in the United States.

Resolved, That any political party which refuses or neglects to exercise the plain provisions of the constitution for the emancipation of the Slave, is unworthy of the suffrages of freemen.

Resolved, That American Slavery has received its nourishment and vitality from the support and countenance of the government of the United States, and therefore it becomes the duty of this government and its supporters, to withdraw from the system its protection, and to exercise with vigor and despatch the constitutional power it possesses, for the entire abolishment of the system.

Resolved, That as Slavery is a creature of laws, by law it should be abolished. That as it is a political as well as a moral evil, the ballot box as well as the tongue and press, should be used for its destruction, as instrumentalities given us by Divine Providence for the accomplishment of this object, which we are not at liberty to overlook in the prosecution of the crusade against Slavery.

Resolved, That while sympathy for the Slave should enter largely into our feelings, while endeavoring to roll on the car of emancipation, we should not forget the pecuniary importance of the question before us, and that it is too true that while the South rule, the North has to foot the bill.

Resolved, That the frequent outrages upon the rights of American citizens, in destroying and suppressing their presses, in branding, kidnapping and imprisoning their persons, and in denying and violating the rights guaranteed to them by the constitution of the Union, result from the existence and maintenance of the system of Slavery, and demand the earnest and united efforts of the freemen of the North for the entire abolishment of Slavery.

Resolved, That the proposal made in the Senate of the United States, by a Senator from the Slaveholding grade yard of our Northern soldiery whom Slavery paraded in its morasses to die inglorious deaths, for the purchase of Cuba to be incorporated with this Union, is another evidence of the grasping avarice which Slavery engenders, and a bitter taunt upon the freemen of the North of the servility of their representatives to the dictation of their Slaveholding allies.

Resolved, That while we hail with gratitude and pleasure, every manifestation of interest and sympathy in our prosperity by the pioneers and veterans in the cause of human liberty, it is to the young men of our State that we must look for the chief support and prosperity of this Association.

Resolved, That in the recent divorce of the Texas Annexation and Oregon Occupation questions, which were so indissolubly joined in wedlock at the Baltimore Democratic National Convention, and in the strange infidelity of the Southern bride towards the Northern groom, we have a perfect yet sad illustration of the grovelling tameness and subserviency of Northern Democracy to Southern domination.

Resolved, That the conduct of the Senator and Representatives of Michigan who supported the annexation of Texas, with its Slaveholding constitution, was a base betrayal of the trusts confided to them by their constituents, and deserves, as it should receive from the hands of those whose rights and interests they have thus bartered, their permanent remembrance and severest reprobation.

Resolved, That the action of Congress in annexing Texas to this Union, with an unjust and unequal apportionment of representation, and a fundamental law which establishes and perpetuates Slavery—was an act unworthy of the representatives of a free and Christian people; unmitigated by any reason of necessity or policy; unconstitutional and unpatriotic in its conception and consummation; and a fearful blow at the very existence of our Republic, that should arouse every citizen to a solemn consideration of his relation with the Slaveholding power that by this act has gained supremacy.

Resolved, That every effort of the advocates and apologists of Slavery to cover its hidden abominations, serves only to expose new features of its guilt, and a disposition to hallow this guilt in high places, and that this is especially brought to view in the late doctrine of organic

13 Resolved, That our thanks are due to Messrs. Cady and Bancroft for the spirit and harmony they conferred on our meeting by their soul-stirring music.

14 Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the citizens of Marshall for the kindness and hospitality that has opened their doors so cordially, and spread their tables so bountifully for us, during this Anniversary.

## SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1846.

### One Dollar a Year in Advance.

#### THE OTHER INTERESTS.

Last week we published the greater part of the Report of the Executive Committee, as it was adopted by a majority of the State Anti-Slavery Society. But a few pages of that Report were stricken out. These pages contained an argument why the Liberty party should take ground on all measures of public interest, and designated the action which the Committee deemed it expedient for the Liberty party to take. As nothing of this kind is exhibited in the official proceedings,—as the debates turned almost entirely on this part of the Report,—and as the question of taking any ground on financial matters must be answered by the Liberty men, yes or no?—we have thought best to state the substance of so much of the Report as was stricken out.

The Committee took the ground that the Liberty party must be regarded as a permanent national party, which would accomplish the Abolition of Slavery by its own direct legislation after attaining to power; or it is merely a temporary anti-slavery party, formed for a short time and for a single object, which was not expected to be permanent, and which could only hope to abolish Slavery through the action of some other party. If the Liberty party was a temporary organization—a mere John the Baptist party, as it were, established to prepare the way for another to come after greater and mightier than itself, then all other issues should be avoided, and our papers, tracts, and lecturers should treat of Abolition, and nothing else.

But if the Liberty party was designed to be permanent and general, and accomplish Abolition by its Legislation, it must take such action as would secure it a sufficiency of numbers and power. This could not be done by an appeal to anti-slavery principles only.—Some persons support a party for one reason, some for another; and yet every vote counts for all the objects of the party. For instance, the Democratic was a pro-slavery party, having for a motto, 'Opposition to Abolitionism'. It was our direct antagonist. Suppose that party had organized on the 'one idea' of supporting slavery, and discarded all action on every other subject, would it have attained its present ascendancy? It would not have mustered a 4th part of its present voters. But by uniting Opposition to Banks, Tariffs, Monopolies, &c., to its pro slavery principles, it was enabled to cast nearly a million and a half of votes for 'Opposition to Abolitionism,' and to secure the complete triumph of the Slave Power over the whole nation. The secret of their success was, that every vote against a high Tariff, Banks, &c., was also a vote for Slavery!

From these considerations the Committee argued, that the Liberty party could not hope to succeed numerically as a party, without defining their position on all questions of public interest now pending, or which may hereafter arise, and they suggested for consideration an outline of the ground which they deemed it proper for the party to take on the most important topics. It was in substance as follows:

1. THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY,—by constitutional means, should continue to be the paramount object of the party.

2. EQUAL POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS, should be secured to every citizen without reference to nativity, color or descent. This principle would do away with all monopolies and special privileges, granted to corporations or individuals, and also with all unequal taxation.

3. A THOROUGH REFORM OF THE JUDICIARY SYSTEM,—both State and National, so that the laws shall be made more intelligible, decisions more conforming to justice, judgment more speedily rendered, the number of technicalities diminished, and the cost of administering justice greatly reduced.

4. THE ELECTION OF ALL NATIONAL AND STATE OFFICERS,—so far as the nature of the circumstances will permit. Especially should this reform be applied to the office of Postmasters, who should be elected by the citizens of the town or city in which they are located.

5. THE REDUCTION OF SALARIES,—of all persons in public employ to as low a rate as will secure incumbents of the requisite qualifications and abilities.

6. THE GRADUAL REDUCTION OF THE ARMY AND NAVY,—with a view to their ultimate abolition as soon as the circumstances of the country, and of other nations, shall render it advisable. Every President recommends an increase of the preparations for War, and they now swallow up two-thirds of the National Revenue. During the fifty-six years that our Government has been in operation, there has been War with civilized nations only three years. Yet according to a recent report of the Secretary of the Treasury, Congress has appropriated during that period—

For Military Service, \$286,998,357

For Naval do 178,933,124

Making a total of \$466,931,481

The Pensions and Interest on the Public Debt, consequent on these preparations, amount to about One Hundred Millions more. A similar expenditure for the next half century, proportionate with our increase as a nation, as recommended by Presidents Polk and Tyler, would require more than One Thousand Millions to be expended in preparations for Wars, of which there is now not any probability. Such enormous and grievous taxation for War, in the present age of the world, after thirty years of profound peace, is neither necessary or wise, and should be opposed by the Liberty party.

7. A TARIFF FOR REVENUE—so long as the expenses of the National Government are as great as they now are. But should they be reduced—as they might be by the measures before enumerated—to one-third or one-half the present amount, the cumbersome machinery of the Custom Houses would be no longer necessary, but the public Treasury could then be supplied better and more cheaply by a small direct tax upon the many and increasing millions of industrious citizens. In this case, the Tariff should be abolished, but so gradually, as to save every interest vested under its provisions.

On motion to adopt the Report,

Mr. GURNEY, of St. Joseph, took the floor in opposition. We were not called upon, as a party, to take ground on the minor questions, and to lengthen out our creed with propositions, as proposed, was unnecessary and unwise. He objected, not to the views of the Committee on these minor questions—for so far as he could judge from hearing them once read, they differed but little from his own—but to the expression of them as the creed of a Political party. We know not what will be the state of things in future. Suppose our Revolutionary fathers, while the struggle for independence was still pending, had met together in National Conventions, and held long debates on the establishment of Tariffs, Banks, Representation, &c., to be carried into effect as soon as they should be able to obtain their independence. Would such a course have been wise? They acted very differently. They knew they had first a great work to do: they applied every energy to its performance, and afterwards settled the details of the government. So anti-slavery men should do. Let Slavery first be abolished, and then all other questions can be determined according to the circumstances of the nation, and those circumstances will be very greatly altered by the abolition of Slavery.

Besides, the one idea of Abolition is large enough to sustain the Liberty party; and if it cannot be sustained on this one idea, it cannot on the many. He desired the creation of a general northern anti-slavery party, that shall have no other interest at issue except this single one. We ought not to allow questions of dollars and cents to interfere with our anti-slavery action in any way. We were made up of both the other parties, and the moment we should attempt to take ground on financial matters, we should become separated from each other.

After some discussion on committing the Report to the Business Committee,

Mr. C. H. STEWART, of Detroit, took the floor in opposition to the Report. He dissented from its doctrines on financial matters altogether. There was no need of enlarging our platform. The one idea of Abolition was a great one. He had spoken upon it, publicly and privately, in all parts of the State, before audiences of every character, and had encountered in debate gentlemen of abilities and experience greater than his own, and in every case he had found the one idea of Abolition was amply sufficient to sustain him, by the greatness and importance of its truths, against superior talents and skill. On this platform we were invulnerable; and he could not be content to leave it and embark on an unknown sea, liable to be driven by every wind, and drifted by every current.

But the reason brought to view for this change of our position was, we could not succeed on the one idea of Abolition only. How was this known? How could it be known before it had been tested? The Liberty party had existed but five years, and it had been in the Presidential contest only once, and even then its efficiency had been acknowledged by political opponents. Our vote had progressed with extreme rapidity until last year; and then it had fallen off much less than that of other parties. The cause why we had not done better was in us, and not in our political basis. But little effort had been made. Increased exertions would bring large accessions of numbers and power.

Mr. S. assented to the position of Mr. Gurney, that it was useless to lay out

political measures now, inasmuch as the great change produced by Abolition would render them practically inapplicable. He dwelt at length on the vast internal home-market for every thing which the liberation of the Slaves would produce. Mr. S. remarked in conclusion, that these were the thoughts of the moment, as they had occurred to him. The positions of the Report were new to him; and time and reflection might possibly induce him, in some measure, to alter or modify his opinion of their character and tendency.

Mr. BECKLEY, of Ann Arbor, wished to make at present merely a single remark. The two previous speakers had both indirectly assumed that the Report recommended that we should leave the one great idea of Abolition in order to take ground on other matters; or that the Report contemplated a *lowering down* of its character and prominence. This was not so. The Report proposes that it shall continue to be, as heretofore, the great and paramount question of the party; but instead of saying that we will take no action on any other political topic, it proposed to take such action respecting each other interest as it was justly entitled to by its influence on the welfare of the nation.

Mr. S. E. TREADWELL, of Jackson, had seen for sometime that this movement would come up. His opinion, formed from considerable reflection and observation, was fully made up. He had not a doubt, if persisted in, and carried out, as proposed in that Report, it would be the ruin of the Liberty party, and by destroying the only antislavery political organization, it might seriously delay the emancipation of the Slave. In discussing a multitude of small ideas, of various and dissimilar character, the great one would be overlooked, while the small ones would mount up to the heavens. He attributed the disposition to bring in these other questions to a want of faith in those who favored the plan: and this want of faith was induced by turning away the attention from Abolition, and placing it on financial questions. By remaining in a state of inactivity, doing nothing for that great object, and all the while thinking and talking about other interests, the whole Liberty party, in the space of one year, might lose all its faith and hope, and be ready to despond of success. Instead of tacking on the other interests, his prescription would be to adhere to the one idea of Abolition more closely: to apply its truth with more earnestness and pungency, that this idea might be received into the public mind, which would become enlarged and strengthened by its reception. This idea is the mid-day sun: those introduced by this Report were tapers, giving, indeed, a dim, glimmering light in a state of darkness, but they would be scarcely discernible amid the bright beams of the orb of day.

Mr. T. said that the question was not whether we can defend our Liberties from every assault, nor whether we can preserve them. They were already lost! But can we REDEEM them? Since the Missouri compromise the Slave Power had been omnipotent. It does whatever it will. Last year it was fierce for war with feeble Mexico, to establish Slavery in Texas; now, when it is proposed to face the British lion to establish free institutions in Oregon, we behold the Slaveholding delegations in Congress giving eloquent lectures on the advantages of peace, and horrors of war. To overthrow this Slave Power we must concentrate our undivided energies; and just in proportion as we suffered our attention to be distracted by other questions, just in that proportion should we lose our faith, become disheartened, and fall in our object.

Mr. HAMMOND, of St. Joseph, moved to refer the Report to a select committee of five, to report at the next annual meeting. It was a very important matter, affecting the destiny of three millions of our countrymen. It should be weighed with care. He was not now prepared to take ground with the Report or against it.

Elder Twiss, of Branch, said he had enlisted in this cause heartily and conscientiously; but he had not entered it to fight the battles of Banks and Tariffs. So far as we had gone, thus far, we were right. There was no doubt of this. On the one idea of Abolition, we could meet all opposition. We had got hold of something substantial and valuable—not all we wished, perhaps—but it was something; and he was against parting with it until we could obtain something more valuable in its place. The proposition of the Committee reminded him of the fable of the dog crossing a stream with a piece of beef in his mouth. Seeing its shadow in the water, he opened his mouth to grasp the new prize, and in so doing he lost that which was in his mouth. For his part he wanted his beef; and he was determined to hold on to that which he had obtained, and not give it up in grasping at a shadow. (Applause.) As to engraving in other principles with ours; there was no need of it. The Whigs, if friendly to Abolition, will join us. Stand still. There are many just men of the Democrats; if true Democrats, they will come to us. But it seems that it is deemed necessary to engrave these propositions on to our creed in order that the Liberty party may succeed: well, what if it did not succeed? The antislavery cause he knew would succeed. He was not terrified at the thought of having been an advocate of an unsuccessful party. He should support it while he deemed that the

best method of advancing that cause; and should the party organization utterly fail, he would be perfectly content to be placed in the condition of Sir John Moore at his burial, when they wrapped his cloak about him, placed him in his grave, and left him "alone in his glory!" (Great applause.)

Rev. Mr. NORTON, of Canton, rose in opposition to the Report. We had commenced with one object, and so that we should adhere. The principles of the other parties were comparatively of little value, and he had been astonished to find how little politicians cared for Liberty. Every thing valuable had been accomplished by the one idea. It had been so in the Temperance cause. To take ground on banks and Tariffs would stop the mouths of the ministers who were now with us. They could not preach on politics, and they could no longer take part in the action of the Liberty party. He was himself emphatically an anti-slavery man, and always had been; and he would labor with others for the speedy extermination of the course; but wisdom required that we should press the question of Abolition singly and disconnected from all other subjects.

Rev. Amos DEXSNER, of Eaton, was also a man of one idea. The object of the Report evidently was to gain help; and to obtain this it proposed a going away from the great fundamental principle. Our success must come from God. He was understood to compare the proposed action of the Liberty party to that of the Israelites when they sent to Egypt for help against their enemies, or when they trusted in the multitude of their horses and chariots. If we were faithful to our cause, through the help of God, we should succeed. We could not succeed, without this help.—Our duty was to labor to open the minds of our fellow men to this great subject. The Abolition of Slavery was a stable, fundamental idea, and it was not wise to depart from it to canvass other and doubtful points.

Dr. GALLUP, of Genesee, observed that this new proposal was deemed necessary, because there had been no material increase of the Liberty vote last year. This was no sufficient ground of discouragement. What was the cause of this? Plainly the want of effort on the part of the friends of the cause. But a large number of true Liberty men staid at home, and a considerable number of persons voted the Liberty ticket for the first time.—Hence there was quite a gain to the party, although not shown by the returns of election. The Report was committed to a Select Committee of five. The next morning this committee, one member dissenting, brought in a report in favor of striking out all that part of the Report which advocated any action on other than antislavery matters.

The question being on the proposal to strike out, Mr. FOSTER, of Ann Arbor, said that the discussion thus far had been all on one side. There was however, another side to it, which he would endeavor to exhibit as briefly as possible. Gentlemen had presented numerous reasons against adopting the Report of the Ex. Com., but not one of them had met the argument of the Report, or had attempted to meet it. The Report declared that slavery would be abolished by some national antislavery party, possessing the inclination and the power to do it. The Liberty party could and would do this work if it had these two prerequisites: not without. Was it willing to abolish Slavery? It was. Was it able to do it? It was not. Why? Because it had not voters enough. How many voters would be necessary? If there were to be but two parties, a million and a half would be requisite; if there were to be three, a million of votes might suffice. Could the Liberty party obtain a million of votes on the one idea of the Abolition of Slavery, utterly refusing to take any ground on any other question whatever?—Here was the gist of the whole matter: if they could do this, then all we have to do is to go ahead on the one idea only. If they cannot attain the million of votes, they cannot succeed as a party, and all representations that we can be delusive, and futile.

Mr. F. said that no man in the State had bestowed more attention and thought upon this question than he had; and he was most fully convinced that the Liberty party cannot succeed, numerically, as a permanent party, on the one idea only. The lessons of experience do not countenance such an expectation.—No political party ever attained a million of votes on one question only. No party in our country ever attained to power without advocating more than one principle. A quarter of a third part of the voters of this country cannot be induced to forsake all other questions of political interest, which they consider valuable, to unite, in a political campaign for six, eight, or a dozen years, with a party that utterly refuses to take any ground whatever respecting them. Nor has the success of the party thus far been such as to countenance this expectation. After six years existence, the whole number of Liberty votes was, at most, but 70,000. We must have some fifty or twenty times as many to abolish Slavery. But take a particular instance. In Ohio are four or five Liberty papers. One of them, the Cincinnati Herald and Philanthropist, is one of the ablest and most profound papers in the United States. It has been published for ten or twelve years, and had a large circulation. In Ohio are 312,000 voters. What proportion of these have been converted to the Liberty party in six years, with all these advantages? Just 8,050, and the vote last year exhibits no material increase on the preceding year.

But gentlemen feel encouraged because we have attained so many votes, and ask if the same means persevered in will not be equally or more efficacious in future? He answered, not necessarily. Our numbers were principally from a particular class of men—the philanthropists and men of moral principle.—The mass of the people we had not touched effectually. If any proof of this were needed, he would merely mention that he had not been able, in six years, to carry a single one of the 500 counties in the Free States. The mass will not come with us while we utterly refuse, as we now do, to take any action on financial matters.

But that Report also affirms that the Liberty party can attain to power, and abolish Slavery by its own direct legislation, if it will take ground on ALL political questions. But it must take right ground—for Liberty, and Justice, and Humanity in all the details of Legislation; and it must pursue these objects in a just and honorable manner, so that every Christian and Patriot can feel that in sustaining the Liberty party, he sustains one in whose progress men will be benefited; and the measures and principles of which the God of Heaven can approve. Let the Liberty party take this ground, earnestly and in good faith, and it would receive accessions, not by scores and hundreds, but by tens of thousands and would immediately become one of our great national parties.

Mr. F. said that he was not disposed to disguise the importance of this movement.—It was truly the most important one made in the antislavery cause since the formation of the Liberty party in 1840. It ought, therefore, to be considered candidly, seriously and fully by gentlemen before they committed themselves against it. It was not at all remarkable that it struck them unfavorably at the first sight. Such had been the result in Washtenaw County. Almost every individual had looked at it in an unfavorable light at first glance, and yet after a full discussion in the County Convention, he had been able to find only two Liberty voters among the three or four hundred in the County, who were now opposed to it. He had not the least anxiety as to the success of the proposition. If it was wise, it would be generally adopted by Liberty men; and if it were not, it would be consigned, as it ought to be, to merited oblivion.

Mr. STUART followed in an elaborate argument, designed principally to show that the Liberty party had achieved as much as ought to have been expected from it. The Gag had been repealed: antislavery sentiment in the nation was gaining, as was shown by the position of Gov. Seward, C. M. Clay, and others; and a perseverance in our present course would certainly bring success.

Mr. FOSTER desired to explain. He had not taken any ground whatever against the success of the antislavery cause; he had the most undoubting confidence that it would be accomplished before the present political opposition to slavery should cease. But he did say that the Liberty party would not succeed as a national party, on the question of Abolition alone. He did not deny that it might be instrumental in bringing over the Whig party to take antislavery ground, or that the Whigs might hereafter abolish Slavery. But if that was the real attitude in which gentlemen wished to place the Liberty party, why not say so? Why not tell the whigs at once we are waiting for them, and urge them to make haste? He, however, deprecated the appearance of the Liberty party in such a position, ready to descend into the tomb, with its grave clothes in one hand, and its last will and testament in the other, beckoning to the Whig party to come and perform its funeral rites, and receive its dying bequest.

Now he was up he wished to answer one prominent argument against the measures proposed by the Report. It was said that we should be divided and quarrel on the minor questions, should they be introduced. Well, they have been introduced, and it seems a majority were opposed to his (Mr. F.'s) views. Was it to be expected that therefore, on his return to Ann Arbor, he should forsake the Liberty party, and vote for slaveholders and their allies? Never! No such suspicion would enter the mind of any one. On the other hand, suppose that, after discussion the decision: he hold be the other way, and these new grounds should be adopted: is there a Liberty man here who would forsake the cause on that account, and join a proslavery party? (Cries of "no, no, no!") Not one! The argument then, is groundless. All will adhere to the Liberty party while it makes Abolition the paramount question.

Mr. BECKLEY, I desire to ask my friend Mr. Stewart one simple question to be answered yes or no. Do you expect the Liberty party, itself, by its own legislation to abolish Slavery?

Mr. STEWART. Yes, if it be not previously abolished by some other means.

Mr. BECKLEY. This is rather a lawyer like answer. If some other party did not do it, the Liberty party would. It seems the question could not be answered without an "IF."

Mr. TREADWELL did not care whether Slavery should be exterminated by the Liberty party, or any other. He had no ambition about it. The main thing was to effect the object. We have every thing that heart can wish to encourage us. The great error of the Report lies in assuming that we can do nothing without a numerical superiority. This was not so. A minority, even though a small one, if zealous and persevering, could exert a mighty influence on a nation. There will be no use for a Liberty party after Slavery shall have been abolished. He was pained by the remark in the letter of Mr. Birney that we ought to do our own work, and not think of the undignified suggestion of getting another party to do it for us. He had yet to learn that it was undignified to ask those who had the power to do it to set the Slave free. It was what we had been doing from the beginning.

Mr. BECKLEY said he perceived by the discussions to which he had listened with much attention, that it was possible for Liberty men to have the mind so completely filled with one idea, as to be unable to see other things in their true proportions. Human nature was the same every where; and that principle of the mind, by which a Whig was unable to see our truly great idea of Abolition because his vision was entirely filled by a magnified view of a Bank or Tariff, when operative in Liberty men, prevented them from seeing that any financial interests whatever were worth attending to. The dictate of wisdom was to regard every object according to its real magnitude and worth.

We were met on every side by the inquiry, "Do you intend to take any action on financial matters?" Now this question must be answered in some way. It will not do to say, we don't know! This inquiry, too, proceeds, as he believed, from men of other parties who were really favorable to our objects, and had a sincere interest in our success, although that interest had not been sufficient to induce them to join our ranks.

Mr. B. said he was well persuaded that our cause would go onward and prosper; but he did not expect to see the Liberty party what it ought to be, unless it would take ground for every right object. We now had the opportunity given us of becoming a national, permanent antislavery party, provided we would do this.—The antislavery feeling is steadily on the gain, and it will go forward with increasing power; but it will organize for action as it proceeds. If the Liberty organization now existing be made such an one as the whole body will be disposed to march under, by attending to their wishes and welfare, it will combine the strength of the entire antislavery host; but if a narrow and limited system of action be adopted, it will prove distasteful to the great mass of the antislavery army. They will form another organization, on a more liberal and enlightened basis, to which every new recruit will willingly attach himself; and after a little, the members of the Liberty party will prefer the new organization to the old, and unite themselves with it. But he did not anticipate that this alternative would be adopted. On the contrary, he expected to see the very persons who were now so zealous against this movement, at the next anniversary, standing in their places, and advocating the measures which they now condemn. He should therefore content himself with simply giving a negative vote, without further remark.

The motion to strike from the Report so much of it as recommended action on any except antislavery subjects, prevailed. The remainder was adopted.

LETTER FROM J. G. BIRNEY, TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MICHIGAN STATE A. S. SOCIETY.

Lower Saginaw, Jan. 1, 1846. TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONVENTION: Sir:—Believing that it will be out of my power to attend the next Anniversary of the State Anti-Slavery Society, and personally take part in its debates—the anxiety I feel as to the results to which my party may lead, must be my apology for now addressing you.

That we, who have earnestly investigated the evils of Slavery, should carry with us, at this time, a large majority of the people of the Free States, on that question alone, is what I scarcely expect. As a party, we cannot limit ourselves to the oppressions of the tyrant over his Slave. If we seek not to re-establish the whole Constitution, wherever party aims—and they alone—have perverted it; if we fail to build on our good and maintainable substratum—the legal and constitutional equality of all men—other interests, in which the people deep feel concern; if we are not in fact a reform party, we shall accomplish comparatively but little; and I apprehend, there is not much use for us here or at this time.

The manner in which the Liberty party has, already, been supported in the Free States, generally, is an omen of good. On their part, when the question of Slavery is viewed as Statesmen view it, it is but a natural struggle for a still superior state of civilization to any they have yet enjoyed. There is no telling to what degree of civilization the Free States, with their opportunities, might not have reached, had it not been for their political connection with the South, and their support of Slavery: for they have substantially supported it, as far as it has been supported, and as far as they could be juggled into it. Every State of Europe, and in this country, where alone civilization and Christianity, its prime element, in any degree, prevail, have banished Slavery, as incompatible with them, and indeed, with the proper aim of a State. From this remark, Russia must be excepted, which, in her Slavery and half-Civilization, more resembles the South than does any other nation of that continent. The Liberty party have, long since, ceased to look for any advancement of

the nation, in good things, to the Democratic or Whig party. Reflecting persons—who are not in search of office, and that are yet counted with both these parties, must soon see the matter as we do. The honest Whig cannot fail of seeing, that with the leaders of that party out of office, nothing is too good for them to promise,—in office, nothing is too bad for them to do. The honest Democrat must know, that, in his party, there is nothing commendable, but the name—and that, now-a-days, is a clear usurpation; that, they are faithless to every just principle which they profess—or rather, that they overlook every principle which they profess, that at all interferes with one which they do not profess: this last is, that they make out of the people, whatever can be made, through the instrumentality of an office.

Parties such as we have now, and are likely to have, as long as the people remain as they are, are the bane of any country. We have here here of but one party; the rest must be but mere factions. We want here a party of just men—such as are friendly to the Constitution. The Constitution is supposed to be founded in justice. If any of its provisions be unjust, and of course, inconsistent with the others, they will have them altered or expunged. The only party, I repeat it, that we need, is one to defend the Constitution; the only faction that we fear, is one that seeks to destroy it.

The Whigs have been trying, of late, but not with the best success, it would seem, to beguile the people with a tariff,—with a national bank, where it was popular—with the giving of the proceeds of the sale of the public lands to the States. We have had a tariff, and have not had a tariff:—we have had a national bank, sanctioned, too, by both Whigs and Democrats, and we have not had one:—we have lived, since the adoption of the Constitution, with the public lands as they now are, without any attempt heretofore to bribe the States, with the gift of them;—we have been, in the main, prosperous, too, under this pernicious tampering. It is not, till lately, that the Whig leaders have had the address to induce a large portion of the people to regard, as their "enemies" their neighbors, who differed with them on these topics. Had it not been for the last consideration—had they not converted into foes, those who ought to have been friends, their proceedings would have been comparatively harmless—for the Constitution was yet unbroken. But in this they succeeded too well, and all that the Whigs might have the offices and power of the government in their own hands. They descended for this purpose, to a forgery, which, as a party, they used; and for which they have not, as yet, even made the slightest acknowledgment. For myself, I care but little for their acknowledgment. For you, as a party, I demand it.

The Democrats have been more successfully, trying the same thing with a Sub Treasury dole—with professions of the "largest liberty"—with opposition to the things most pleasing to the Whigs,—till, at last, the Democrats of the North have been prevailed on by their confederates at the South—if we are to believe Mr. Calhoun's letter to the British Minister—for the sole advancement of Slavery to repeat, and even to go beyond, all their former violations of the Constitution. It is worthy of the most earnest consideration, by those who think the country may yet be saved, that all the permanent and irremediable breaches of the Constitution, have been effected under the rule of the strict constructionists. Mr. Madison approved of the late Bank of the United States, and the charter was prepared by the father of the present Vice President, himself a Democrat. It has been submitted to the Supreme Court of the U. S. and approved by that tribunal: still the Democrats contend that it is unconstitutional.

Mr. Jefferson purchased Louisiana, Mr. Monroe, Florida, and Mr. Polk, even before he entered on his office, converted, at least, as many Whigs as he wanted in the Senate, to enable him, as far as that body could, to introduce Texas into the Union.

But it is a waste of time for me to be finding fault with parties, from whom we have separated—who have not, for the last twenty years been entitled to our confidence, and who I may say, are totally without it. The sensible men, in both of them, must soon see, I say, that the conflicts in which they are annually called to play their part, have degenerated into mere scrambles for office; that, by an office, a Whig can speedily be converted into a Democrat, or a Democrat into a Whig; or if I should designate the parties more properly, they represent two gamblers, each of whom has but half enough to support him in his laziness and extravagance; they stake the whole and play for the amount, that one may lead the life of a gentleman without business, the other, that of a loafer or vagabond on the face of the earth. The PEOPLE are only the Cards, with which the game is played.

Mr. Polk may have a splendid administration; so might Mr. Clay, had he been elected. But that is not what we want; that is not the object we have in view,

when we pay Mr. Polk his salary—when we agree that we will pay an enhanced price for what we eat, and wear and use. We don't want an English government, nor do we want our free institutions disparaged, nor do we want our best men made light of, by charging them with being bought with British gold. We imagine that no such case has occurred, since Great Britain acknowledged our independence; and persons show their contempt for the intelligence of the people, who are given to such charges. Nor do we want a French government, nor any other in the world, but our own, divested of partyism. We don't wish to see our government swayed by what other governments do. Instead of being swayed by other governments, we desire to see her sway others. We wish her to be the first government, as she was intended to be, under the sun. She never can be this, till justice to all, characterize all that she does at home—till justice distinguish her in all her intercourse with other States—till justice is in all that she says or does. To bring our government to this elevation—were I among you,—I would support, these propositions:

I would diminish the powers, the patronage, and of course, the salary of the President of the United States. The preservation of the last five years—especially, with regard to the Army, Navy, and appointments to office, would lead to this, if nothing else would.

I would reduce, and ultimately abolish the Army. We need none now. If we should need one in future, which is highly improbable, the affections of the people increased by demolishing it, may well be relied on. The officers, it will be found even now, very difficult to get rid of. When the Army is increased fourfold, it will be impossible.

The Navy, too, I would gradually reduce, till it was totally abolished. The same reasons exist for the demolition of the Navy, that exist for the demolition of the Army. One is called the right arm, the other the left arm of this Republic. So we are to make our way through the world, not by reason and common sense, but by fighting. However moral this way may be, it has never been found expensive, whether tried nationally, or individually. So, I think, it will ever be found. It is no wonder that an officer of the Army, lying asleep till the middle of the day, in his comfortable quarters—having good company—good wine—and a good salary, duly paid, out of the public treasury, should fancy himself the right arm of this nation. Nor is it any wonder that an officer in the Navy—especially, since the Navy is probably to be increased, for the benefit of Slaveholders,—should, for the same reasons that influenced the officer in the Army, fancy himself the left arm of this nation. But while they are enjoying all these good things, and giving wings to their imagination, it is not so well for the poor man that has to pay his portion of their salary. Besides all this, up to the 30th June, I think, the Army and Navy cost about two-thirds of all our expenses, the preceding year. They have never returned it—they never will—the people have to pay the expense; and I would gradually learn to do without them, till I could do without them altogether. There are some people who imagine that government was made only for fighting; that it can subsist only by fighting; that its honor and its everything depend on fighting; that it is to be judged entirely by the forwardness of its preparations for fighting. Now, according to my notion, these people are much mistaken, and I would teach them so, in the most practical manner; I would send them, it is hoped, to some honest pursuit; while I would transact my business with other nations on principles of common sense and justice, and raise an Army or a Navy, when I wanted them, not keep them always on hand.

I would also do away entirely, with a tariff, as it is familiarly called. The Army and Navy keep up the tariff almost as much as anything else. But I would do away with it gradually, so that no present interest should be injuriously affected. The tariff, like disease in the human body, can only be guessed at. No person has yet shown it so clearly, as to make it worthy of being considered a permanent State institution. The bare fact of such a wide difference as now exists in relation to it, between minds of the best and most impartial texture, is proof of this. One thing though, we all know: that if an article be worth ten cents per yard, and we make it by legislation, worth twelve, the two cents have to be paid, somehow, by the other interests of the country. It may be, too, by other interests, which are themselves languishing, and which have done all they could to oppose it. But it may be said, especially of the cotton interest, in reply to this, that the support of the government produces competition, and we get articles still lower than they have been. This proves, unanswerably, I think, if they continue to be so sold, that the interest in question never needed a tariff of protection. If it does not prove this, we have stimulated persons improperly to engage in a protected interest, and they are now selling lower than they can afford to sell. Be-

side this, it is said, we contend successfully in foreign markets; especially in the interest already indicated. If this be true, all the clamor about the pauper labor of Europe is false; because in a foreign market we must meet it. It will be a happy thing, I think, when the national custom-houses are done away with; when their thousands are not expected to electioneer for the persons who put them there; when there shall exist no motive for smuggling; and free trade shall be established—the United States leading the way.

I would reduce the daily allowance paid to members of Congress, at least one half. Now, notwithstanding we have rail roads and steam boats, which shorten the time of travel almost incalculably, we have, no reduction of the daily allowance of members of Congress. Now, the trip from Boston, say to Washington, need not occupy more than three or four days, and call for an expenditure of more than twenty-five or thirty dollars; yet, if I mistake not, the member of Congress receives for it, the sum of two hundred dollars or more. But all this is thrown into the shade, and it shows how light a thing public money is, by a decision of Vice President Dallas, at a session of the Senate, beginning the fifth of March last—the day after the preceding one had duly terminated. He decided, that all the Senators were entitled to their travelling expenses to their places of abode, and back again to Washington city. This, with regard to the Senators elect, who had come from their homes to attend the meeting to which they were summoned, was right enough,—but with what face Mr. Dallas offered that sum to Senators, who had not even packed up their trunks, or paid their boarding house keeper's bill, and with what face such Senators received such a gift from the treasury, is for them and the people to say. It has occurred to me, as an improvement on the present plan—such is the difference in the value of money in different parts of the country—to have the Senators paid by the State and the members of the House of Representatives by the district which sent them. This contemplates their being paid near at home, and according to the value of their services.

From the specimens I have given you—and I desire not to make this letter too long, by the citation of other instances—you see that I am the advocate of entire reform in the General Government. I am not the less so, in regard to our State Government. If government be the concentrated physical force of the community, against the individual, or individuals, who violate justice, it has not half to do that it now attempts. Whatever, in any way, contributes to make government do what it ought to do; to confine it to that; to make it economical; comprehensible, by those who give their minds to it; just at home and abroad; in fine, concurrent with the divine government, without which it will not last long, shall find in me a steady supporter. All this I wish the Liberty party to do; and not to give way to the undignified proposition, that others will do it for us. Respectfully yours,

JAMES G. BIRNEY.

SALE OF THE CENTRAL RAILROAD. A bill for this object is now pending before both Houses. It is long, having 38 sections. We shall publish next week a full synopsis of its provisions, as the question is one of the greatest importance and interest to our readers. The prospect of a sale being made is thought to be more favorable.

APPOINTMENTS.—The following appointments have been made by the Governor and Senate, in this County:—Walter A. Buckbee, Prosecuting Attorney from the 21st March next; James N. Hollywood, Elijah W. Morgan, James Kingsley, Flavius J. B. Crane, George N. Skinner, and Oliver W. Moore, Notaries Public.

We learn that the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, have reported against striking the word "WHITE" from the Constitution. We have not yet seen the Report.

We are indebted to Hon. J. G. Leland for Legislative documents.

Several communications are necessarily postponed.

VERY IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO—YUCATAN DECLARED INDEPENDENT.

The N. Y. Herald of Friday, publishes a letter from Merida, the capital of Yucatan, announcing the formal withdrawal of that province from the Government of Mexico—recalled her deputies from the Mexican Congress, and torn the Mexican Eagle from her standard. This took place on the 30th ult. According to the intelligence conveyed in this dispatch, the province of Yucatan has absolutely declared its independence of Mexico, and is now a separate republic.

Incident upon this has been the resignation of the Governor of the department, Don Tiburcio Lopez, and his place is filled by Don Miguel Barbachan, formerly holding the same office. This freshly revolted province, says the Herald, is one of the best in the whole republic of Mexico. Its inhabitants are energetic and enterprising, and if they are determined to be independent, the rest of Mexico cannot retake them.



