THE SOUTHERN PRESS.

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1850.

Ephraim Rejecting his Idols.

The editor of the *Union* is consistent only in inconsistency—like the weathercock, pointing due North one morning, and South by West the next.

Everybody recollects the amazement that inspired the minds of men, when this whilome champion of State rights, and the Resolutions of '98, after assailing the principles and policy of HENRY CLAY for a quarter of a century, suddenly fell at his feet with the penitent humiliation of the prodigal son—and bespattered him as copiously with praise as formerly with abuse. Whether the "Sage of Ashland" doubted the sincerity of this sudden conversion on the part of his life-long enemy—whether he deemed his plaudits more dangerous than his abuse—or whether he considered either of too little consequence to care about at all—is difficult to determine: but his reception of the awkward coquetries of the editor of the *Union*, has not, it seems, proved satisfactory—for in his paper of Saturday he gives unmistakeable threats of forswearing his allegiance.

The air of pretended astonishment, and virtuous indignation, with which the editor proclaims the utterance by Mr. CLAY of a sentiment, which every one who paid any attention to his repeated declarations last session must have known he entertained: which his arrogant threat of coercing by the bayonet and the rope the citizens of a sovereign State, for proclaiming that sovereignty, and giving it their first allegiance, proved him to be ready to put in execution—this, we say, is the broadest farce which ever the editor of the *Union* has attempted to enact. Listen to the gravity and solemnity with which he dilates on this great and wonderful discovery! this privileged peep through the eye of the millstone, into so "surprising" a phenomenon, as HENRY CLAY's avowal, that he will "Never! *Never!!* NEVER!!! *consent to a dissolution of this Union:*"

It is with some surprise and sincere regret that we find the following in the telegraphic report of Mr. Clay's late speech at Frankfort, in the Philadelphia Bulletin. We cannot think it possible that he used such expressions as are ascribed to him in the latter part of this extract. We suspect the telegraph, or rather its writer, is mistaken. We shall wait until this morning for the copletion of the speech in the New York Herald, and reserve our comments until we can weigh its expressions. Should the report as given be confirmed by the full speech, we shall feel it to be our duty to enter the most emphatic protest against such dangerous doctrines. We do not believe that ten Southern men can be found who would not indignantly repudiate these sentiments:

"I may be asked, as I have been asked, when I would consent to a dissolution of the Union. I answer NEVER, NEVER, NEVER! because I can conceive of no possible contingency that would make it for the interests and happiness of the people to break up this glorious confederacy, and separate * * * I into bleeding and belligerent parts. I would hold to it if Congress were to usurp a power—which I am sure it never will—to abolish slavery within the States; for, in the contingency of such a usurpation, we should be in a better condition as to slavery, bad as it would be, out of the Union than in the Union."

Let this Union stand, even if the powers that have been given are so grossly abused as to "abolish slavery within the States!" It is impossible that this distinguished statesman should have uttered such a sentiment. The South had better lose forever every slave who escapes, than that Congress should liberate all the other slaves, and let loose such a wild population upon her, and, in fact, carry desolation and ruin to every hearthstone in the South. The South can never consent to relinquish the control of its most delicate domestic institutions to the Federal Government. Mr. Clay disclaims, in the strongest terms, the supposition that Congress will usurp the power to "abolish slavery within the States." Such a supposition ought not, therefore, to have been made; and therefore we are impressed with the belief that Mr. Clay could not have made such a declaration.

The foregoing article was prepared for our paper of yesterday, but excluded by a press of other matter. We will now add that we have received a copy of Mr. Clay's speech in the New York Herald, and also find another version of it in the *Republic* of yestsrday. The above sentence, to which we take exception, is not the same in the *Republic*, as will be observed; and the Herald has a totally different version from both. The editor of the Herald suggests in the note that is appended to this part of the speech, that there must be some error in his report of this paragraph, but is unable to conjecture in what respect. (We do not agree with the Herald. The reader will see from its version of Mr. Clay's speech, which we this morning lay before our readers, that the sentence is clear and complete in itself.) We most cheerfully give Mr. Clay the benefit of the doubt. The usual construction, both *on account of our feelings for Mr. Clay*, and on account of the important error which might be put forth, under the sanction of his high name. That construction is to suppose that the Herald's report is substantially correct. *We cannot believe that Mr. Clay would give utterance to such a mad and unmanly sentiment as this*—that if slavery was abolished in the States without their consent, the South would still or should cling to the Union. Such a measure would be the death-blow to her interests; *it would sweep her fair fields with the besom of destruction;* it would convert the blessings of the Union into a deep and blighting curse. And is it to such a state of things that *Mr. Clay would bow in submission and inculcate on the South the same degenerate spirit of acquiescence? We cannot believe it. We must wait till the revised report is printed.* We must see Mr. Clay's own endorsement of such a monstrous proposition before we can belive he uttered this extravagant proposition. The noble and patriotic tone of this speech makes us hope that this sentence is incorrectly printed in the *Republic* and the Bulletin.

We yield to no American, not even to Mr. Clay himself, in devotion to the Union. But the great rights of the States must not be sacrificed to it. The South can never suffer the interference of Congress with slavery in the States. The South will never submit to any measure even short of *that* interposition, because usurpation insensibly slides from one part to another. The snow-ball is constantly increasing as it rolls on; and therefore the South will demand that Congress should not disturb the subject at all—meddle with it in no form—"touch not, taste not, handle not."

The people of the South never will consent to place their domestic institutions at the mercy of strangers to those institutions, who will be ignorant of their interests, their true condition in this respect—subject to all the fiendish passions of the fanatics, and of insidious politicians as bad as the Abolitionists themselves—and who are not, from position or otherwise, to be affected in the same manner. Such a state of things would reduce the people of the Southern States almost to as bad a condition as the slaves themselves, if not worse. It would put every thing they hold dear, as well life as property, at the control of others; and, judging of the character of the aggressors from what we have seen, not one of their rights would survive the first assault. Could such evils be borne patiently for a single day?

Can this be the voice of the great laudator of the Compromise—and of HENRY CLAY? the burden of whose song for months past, has been *Union, Union*, nothing but *Union*—blended with denunciations of all who dared even to "calculate its value"—who has sought, by every artifice and device that cunning could suggest, to stifle the voice of Southern resistance, and strengthen the submissives of the South?

Even so! He now stands like the apostate angel, brooding over the abyss—and ready with him from his inmost soul to exclaim:

"Ah me miserable!
Which way can I fly?
Infinite wrath, and infinite despair!"

On the one side is to be encountered the wrath of the South, as infinite as their wrongs—on the other, the icy indifference and abandonment by the North of one, who has aided to lull the Southern Sampson to slumber for them. In such a strait well may the *Union* again repeat in the bitterness of its spirit, its own warning, with a variation:

"EQUIVOCATION HAS UNDONE US."

Mr Clay on the Union.

In his letter to the great Union meeting in Philadelphia, Mr. CLAY makes the following declaration:

"The question before the nation is, (it would be folly to blink or disguise it,) whether agitation against slavery shall put down the Union, or the Union shall be preserved, and that agitation be put down. There is no other alternative. And is there any patriot that can doubt or hesitate on such an issue?"

If these are the alternatives—the end of agitation or of the Union—it requires no prophet's inspiration to foresee which end will come; and Mr. CLAY has presented the issue in terms that bring him quite suddenly to the disunion side. For who expects that agitation will cease? Is there any hope of it? But a day or two before his letter appeared, the New York *Tribune*, the leading paper of his own victor party in the largest State of the Union, pronounced emphatically for continued discussion of slavery, and derided all threats and entreaties to end it. The same paper contains the following extract from the speech of GEORGE THOMPSON, the British Abolitionist, who, more favored at Boston than the Georgia claimants, was, after being once prevented from making a speech, permitted to address the next meeting he attended in that city:

"A voice has spoken in the ear of this mighty nation, and has said

Sleep no more!

Slavery has murdered sleep. It is unnecessary for me to enter upon historical details.—Most, if not all, of you have been living witnesses of the progress of the cause. Some of you have been conspicuous actors in the sublime drama which is still unfolding its scenes—deepening in interest as they advance in the stage of the civilized world.

The question is up—the contest is begun—the combat thickens—the battle becomes grand—it will be grander still—it will be the greatest and grandest ever fought on earth, and its consequences the most momentous and far-reaching of any that have ever followed from a war of principles since the world began.

Slavery! it is the theme of every newspaper. It is the topic of debate in every legislative hall. It lengthens the sittings of Congress. It allows your Senators but two hours' rest at night. It mixes with your soil. It determines your boundary lines. It is that word in every new constitution which causes the mightiest intellects in the land to grapple with each other in passionate and unyielding conflict. It is the pivot upon which every election turns. It decides the complexion of every ticket placed in the ballot-box. It is the test of membership in churches. It is the cause of divisions in communities. It leads to new combinations of political parties. It makes and unmakes Bishops. It changes Whigs into Democrats, and both into Free soilers. It is the interpreter of the tables of stone given to Moses, and of the precepts to brotherly love uttered by Jesus. It meets the priest on the steps of the altar—the preacher on the stairs of the pulpit—the merchant on the busy Exchange—and the New England farmer, when a hungry, naked wanderer asks in the name of it and humanity a shelter for the night.

Is it nothing, my friends, that all this has been brought to pass in twenty years? Is it nothing, that an obsolete and buried Christianity has been exhumed, and sent forth, like a refining fire, to purify this land from the curse of slavery."

GEORGE THOMPSON was chased away from Boston for his abolitionism fifteen years ago.—He returned to be welcomed with honors and congratulations, and to see claimants of slaves chased away. The abolition agitation had then begun. The prophetic eye of Mr. CALHOUN foresaw the consequences, and he proclaimed them. He was then told by Mr. WEBSTER that Abolitionists were contemptible in numbers and character, and were impotent. Mr. CALHOUN told him that the day would come when *he* would be compelled either to adopt their views, or *be driven from the public councils.* Fifteen years only have elapsed, and not a year has passed since the grave closed over Mr. CALHOUN, and Mr. WEBSTER is repudiated by Massachusetts; and in his place a British raven croaks. He comes, and proclaims universal emancipation, and who does not see that the *next* issue, real and practical, between North and South, will be that.

This District.

The selfish fears of the people of Washington have been appealed to repeatedly by the Compromisers, who have claimed to represent their interests in putting down the opponents of that measure, who in fact are their only true friends as events will shortly show.

Since the passage of the "Suppression" bill here, and the assertion thereby of the right of Congress to manumit slaves in the District brought here for sale, they hold their property of this sort only by sufferance—for who regards the threats of men who bluster only for the purpose of backing out.

How long that sufferance will be allowed by the intermeddling spirit of Northern fanaticism, the following, among other pregnant paragraphs in Northern prints, will show. We take it from the Buffalo *Republic*, a paper published at the home of Mr. FILLMORE:

The Mayor of Washington has issued a public notice, that free negroes residing in that city, who have not given bonds and security to become no burden on the Corporation, will be fined and imprisoned according to the law of 1827.

If there is any law of the character here alluded to, it requires *a little legislative tinkering.* Is it in the capital of this nation a crime or misdemeanor for a negro to be free? Else why should he thus be required to give security for his conduct? Such a law would disgrace the statute book of Russia.

"The well known fable of Æsop," touching the Wolf and the Lamb, will surely be verified, and would speedily be so, but for the salutary restraint imposed by the dread of the denounced and slandered "Southern Agitators."

A NEW SPECULATION.—According to the Courier des Etats Unis, a speculator is at present mustering, in Paris, some three or four hundred women, with a view to take them to California, where gold is, and the fair sex not abundant. The furniture of more than two hundred of these young fugitives was sold at the Place de la Bourse on the 15th ultimo, they being unwilling to incur a new term of rent. The speculator in question, who is an ex-actor, is going to establish a matrimonial office at San Francisco, after the fashion of that of Monsieur Foy, at Paris.

WESTERN TRAVEL.—Some idea of the tide of travel setting to Wisconsin, may be formed from the fact, that the aggregate number of passengers landed at Milwaukie, during the present season of navigation, is 30,518.

"First rate Notices" of President Fillmore's Letter.

The characteristic comments of sundry Northern prints on this letter, fully confirm the view taken of it by the resistance party of Georgia, who resent it as an interference in the pending election on the part of the President, and denounce it as really meaning nothing.

The especial organ of Senator SEWARD in the State of New York, the Albany *Evening Journal*, *heartily commends* that letter. This ever has been the policy of the subtle Sewardites, who care not secretly how many "*brave words*" may be administered as sleeping potions to the South—so long as their promise is kept to the ear and broken to the hope.

Thus speaks the especial organ of the Higher law party. We give it entire:

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.—The letter of the President to the gentleman claiming Crafts as a fugitive slave, will be found in another column. It is a sound exposition of the duty of the Executive in regard to the execution of the laws. The constitutional obligation to surrender fugitives is clear, positive and undeniable. It is a part of the "atrocious bargain" made by our fathers. It is "nominated in the bond" which the master presents when he claims "service and labor" from the fugitive."

But while we admit that it is the imperative duty of the President to see this law executed, we cannot but regret that a law with details so hostile to the spirit of our institutions, and so repugnant to the sentiments of our nature, was permitted to pass. Divested of some of its manifestly dangerous and vicious features, the sentiments against it would not be so universal and so strong. Persons claimed as fugitives ought not to be deprived of any of the rights and privileges which all our laws extend to persons arraigned as criminals. The protection of law should not be wholly withdrawn from the man whose offence consists in having wrought out his own freedom. Even slaves may be excused for thinking that they were "born free and equal," and that "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is among *their* "inalienable rights," because these great principles are asserted in our Declaration of Independence. All this is untrue, so far as the colored man is concerned, we know, but it stands there to mislead slaves and confound freemen.

The great error was in allowing such a law to pass. Its execution, by a process so summary and inexorable, violently convulses the foundations of society. Fugitives who have lived among us for ten, fifteen, twenty and five and twenty years, cannot be seized and driven off as if they belonged to the brute creation. For have not fugitives, like Jews, "organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions; fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? if you prick us, do we not bleed; if you tickle us, do we not laugh; if you poison us, do we not die; and if you wrong us, shall we not revenge? if we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that."

The retroactive character of this law covers more ground than can be depended. The attempt, under this law, to recover, at a swoop, the fugitives whose numbers have been augmenting for a quarter of a century, will prove inevitably abortive. In cases appealing strongly to popular sympathies, individuals will, as they have, voluntarily purchase the freedom of fugitives. And the free States would, we doubt not, far more readily consent to pay reasonably for fugitives claimed and identified, from the National Treasury, than to permit this law to remain in our statute book.

The error of the Administration, therefore, is, not in its determination to see this law executed, but in allowing a bill so dangerous to the public tranquility to become a law. The present embarrassment is that the law can neither be executed nor repealed. But it may, possibly, be so amended as to obviate some objections, and to avert impending dangers—dangers from the South if it is not enforced, and danger from the North if its enforcement should require the use of powder and ball!

That "conservative" journal, the New York *Commercial Advertiser*, is very hard on Dr. COLLINS, of whom it speaks contemptuously, though the remarkable forbearance and calmness displayed by that gentleman, should have saved him from insult from such a source. Its "only surprise is" that, "*the President could muster gravity and patience enough to reply to the communication?*"

"Think of that, Master BROOKS!" The *Advertiser* be it understood, claims to be a "national print."

Listen men of Georgia, and then know what you have to expect from your "national" brethren of the North, so long as they believe that submission is your creed.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE CRAFTS—LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT.—The owner of the fugitive slaves, Crafts and his wife, having written to the President respecting the difficulties his agents experienced at Boston in their attempts to recover the fugitives, the President instructed the acting secretary of the proper department to answer the communication in the form given below. Two or three points deserve brief mention. Mr. Collins, of Macon, Georgia, must have been somewhat forgetful or ignorant of what was proper in the premises, if he really supposed that his own general statements, himself so far from the scene of action, and a collection of newspaper paragraphs would be deemed by the President sufficient authority for Executive interference with the judiciary of the city of Boston, the removal of a marshal, or the parade of the military, horse, foot and dragoons, before the people of the city of notions. If the owner of Crafts really supposed that such "authorities" as he enclosed in his letter would be deemed sufficient to justify the Executive interference, he must either have supposed that President Fillmore had not cut his wise teeth, or his own gums have never tingled with the pain of a similar operation.

Our only surprise is that the President could muster gravity and patience enough to reply to the communication. That his courtesy prevailed, however, is matter of congratulation to every good citizen, for it has afforded to all an exposition of the President's views and intentions that cannot fail to be highly beneficial at the present juncture. We honor Mr. Fillmore for the calm, dignified, dispassionate treatment of the subject. We honor him equally for the confidence he reposes in the North, and for the just counsel he gives to the South, with respect to their mutual relations to the Fugitive slave law. We cannot see how such views can fail to meet a cordial response everywhere, and we cannot help suspecting the patriotism of any men who can find in the President's sentiments cause of umbrage or excuse for denunciation. Yet certain papers in the South have denounced the letter as an electioneering manœuvre, in the very face of the fact that Mr. Collins's letter dated at Macon, Ga., so late as the 3d of November, asked for a reply, and was replied to almost by return of post—a courteous promptness, especially when the irregular character of the application is considered, which ought to have satisfied the South that the President was as desirous of showing them good will as any man well could be. Had he delayed or declined a reply, these same papers would have made that the occasion for reproach.

THE COTTON CROP—ALABAMA.—The people of Greene county, according to the Beacon of the 9th, were still suffering from one of the severest drouths ever experienced in that section. The injury done to the cotton crop by the frosts of the 25th and 26th, was greater than at first supposed. Bolls nearly grown, of which there were a large number on the late cotton on bottom lands, were completely destroyed.

Which is the Rip Van Winkle now?

Though Virginia sleeps, her next neighbor once twitted as being the "Rip Van Winkle of the South," is wide awake to a sense of duty to herself and her sisters in the present emergency.

The public mind in North Carolina is kindled into indignation and a sense of wrong, and she bids fair to snatch the standard of State Rights from the hands of the old banner bearer of Southern Rights, whose Resolutions of '98 are fast becoming as much a dead letter there, as the Fugitive law now is in Massachusetts.

First "look on this picture" from the Norfolk Va. *Argus*, one of the few but firm and faithful left.

THE STATE OF THE CASE.—We publish in our columns to-day extended speculations from intelligent and prominent journals of New York, upon the unhappy controversy existing between the two sections of the confederacy. The articles referred to are entitled to the earnest consideration of our people. The present aspect of affairs is peculiarly critical, dangerous and perplexing. The extent of excitement and acerbation at the North against our institutions is not in the slightest degree magnified. The slavery question is the all-in-all topic. Northern statesmen cannot stand before the abolition current, and are bound to go with it. Sagacious business men from our own community, recently returned from a tour thro' the Northern and Eastern States, represent the state of feeling pervading in these regions as alarming in the extreme. They say it is useless to disguise the the fact that a determination exists on the part of powerful and designing men at the North, to break up the Union of these States—it is settled and serious—they ponder upon it as a fact, and measure its consequences. These evils and difficulties are constantly and progressively increasing. Such is the sentiment of hostility engendered, it is idle to expect that amicable relations can ever, hereafter, exist between the two antagonistic interests. As well might we attempt to unite fire and ice. The people of the South ought to open their eyes to the approaching crisis, and must open their eyes to it. A juncture has arisen which devolves great duties and responsibilities upon them. It is not mockery now, all that is heard. It is not all fulmination, but solemn earnest. *The people of Virginia seem to be sunk into a lethargy, which, unless they are roused, must prove fatal.* Convince them that this is a second contest for independence, and the blood of their ancestry will rush in their veins; even from their tombs shall we hear their voices inspiring us like them to endure; like them to suffer; and in the same good cause, we trust in God, like them to triumph.

And then contrast it with this, drawn from several North Carolina prints.

The Raleigh *Standard* says:

We learn that Mr. Clingman's recent speeches before his constituents of the mountain district, have produced the finest results for the cause of the Constitution and Southern rights. He has been received at all points with much cordiality by his old friends, and he has made many new ones recently, by his firm and manly conduct in resisting the aggressions of the Free-soilers and fanatics. We learn that he is much stronger in his district now than he has ever been before; and that the bitter and unjust manner in which he has been assailed by the Raleigh Register and a few Federal orators who are anxious to supplant him, has added in no small degree to his influence and popularity.

Wherever you meet an old Federalist in the mountain district, there you will find a submissionist and an anti-Clingman man; while on the other hand all the *Republican* Whigs are standing by him and are sound upon the slavery question. So far as this question is concerned, Mr. Clingman has right and justice on his side; and with the talents he possesses as a popular debater, he has nothing to fear. He must continue to bear down every submissionist who encounters him or crosses his path.

We learn also that Mr. Clingman occupies the true ground upon the Tariff question. He is unwilling to give bounties to those who are assailing our dearest interests and plotting the destruction of the Union.

The Hillsboro *Democrat* says:

HON. A. W. VENABLE.—We learn from a private source that Mr. Venable appeared before his constituents on Tuesday of last week, in Oxford, Granville county. And in the evening he addressed the people of that place in his able and easy manner, and was replied to by Henry W. Miller, esq., of Raleigh. Our informant says that Mr. Venable's speech was one among the best speeches he ever had the pleasure of hearing—that he literally "*used up*" Mr. Miller on every position to which he was forced to retreat. We are not at all surprised at this, for we are well aware of the fact, that Mr. Venable is both able and willing to handle any man that the "Raleigh Clique" can afford to send, if it be Gov. Manly himself.

We expect Mr. Venable will be here during our next Court.

Mr. DOBBIN, the newly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, in his address uses the following emphatic and significant language.

We have convened, gentlemen, at a peculiarly interesting period in the history of our State and our country. Events of momentous magnitude are passing around us. Questions involving property, and peace, and constitutional rights, seem now to be assuming a practical character. The minds of our wisest men are filled with fearful apprehensions and gloomy forebodings. The people of North Carolina look now with the most intense concern to the action of their representatives. Our legislative bearing now may seriously affect the character of our State. *Let us with scrupulous fidelity preserve her honor—with calm determination maintain her rights.*

In renewing the expression of thanks for this flattering testimonial of your partiality, allow me to assure you, that in attempting to discharge the trust, I shall know no feelings but those of the strictest impartiality—no party but our common constituents—no locality but our common State.

From the Goldsboro *Telegraph*.

SECESSION.—The Fayetteville Observer learns from various private sources, that the legislature of South Carolina will secede from the Union at the ensuing session, and that the feeling of that State is almost universally in favor of this movement. This would certainly be much wiser and nobler, than the course pursued by Massachusetts. She is perfectly willing to remain in the Union, and enjoy all the blessings which it confers, while she has not the generosity to make the slightest sacrifice, even of opinion, in its behalf.

The Religious community also are awake to their responsibilities. From the *Standard* we extract the following notice, to which we append the Resolutions referred to.

We very cheerfully publish to-day, by request, the proceedings of the "twenty-fifth Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, convened at Rehoboth, Granville county," on the 6th instant. The conference, it will be seen, has taken high ground on the slavery question. McBride, Crooks, and Bacon are censured in the severest terms; and the conference has expressly declared that such men shall not perform religious services in any of their chapels, or places of public preaching.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONFERENCE.

Resolved, That in the view of some efforts that are being made under the specious name of Wesleyan Methodism, to introduce and enforce the doctrine of abolition of slavery in this State, by the agency of certain men, who have dared to assume the name of Christian ministers, it is the duty of all the ministers and preachers of this Conference to show their unqualified disapprobation of all such efforts and ministers, by standing aloof from all such associations, and not to assist or participate in any of their mischievous and wicked and lawless efforts to subvert the order, peace and prosperity of the citizens of our State.

Resolved furthermore, That those evil and arch agents in this mischief, McBride, Crooks and Bacon, should not be permitted to assume any part of any religious service performed in any of our chapels or preaching places.

Whereas, It is publicly known that certain ministers, calling themselves true Wesleyan Methodists, have been convicted of intermeddling with the institution of slavery in our State, and have fomented strife and discord, both in a social and religious point of view, and have brought much odium on the Christian name; and furthermore, as persons at a distance from the scene of these transactions may not be fully aware that the ministers above mentioned are not of our own order,

Resolved, That the political papers in our State, friendly to truth and justice, be requested to announce that the authors of these disturbances are not Methodist Protestants, but true Wesleyan Methodists, (so called) from the State of Ohio."

California.

As will be seen, by reference to the news on another column, the tidings of the admission of this State have been received at San Francisco with "patriotic demonstrations," more noisy than greeted its passage in this city. It is but natural that "those should laugh that win." The people of San Francisco, will profit prodigously by it—but San Francisco is not *the* "State of California"—nor its press the exponent of that part of California, whose delegates in the convention struggled against its absorption by the predominating power.

Having accomplished the double purpose which carried them there—the grabbing at the gold and the acquisition of the land for free-soil and free-labor—the "*people*" of that region are *returning home* by thousands.

Any one who takes the trouble of looking over the lists of passengers will see that there never was literally such "a floating population," as that of "The State of California." The *Pacific* brings back *five hundred and forty-six* passengers, and a correspondent of the *Herald* (on board, writing from Havana) says:

There were more than one hundred and fifty passengers left at Chagres, which the Pacific could not take. The rush for tickets was tremendous. Tickets for the steerage, which cost fifty dollars, were several times sold for one hundred dollars. We took on board many more than we should have done, on account of the condition and anxiety of passengers to get away, promising to be content with anything if allowed to come on board the ship. So far, we have got along remarkably well; all seem to be disposed to bear almost anything rather than to stop longer at Chagres.

Well, having aided in the manufacture of one State, the same "people" can after a two month's residence in *Nebraska*, incline the balance more to the Northern side, by bringing in another Free-soil State, and indefinitely repeat the short and easy process sanctioned by the last Congress.

The *Herald* further says:

Gen. Foot, U. S. Charge des Affaires to Bogota, and secretary, are passengers by the Crescent City; also Lieut. De Camp, U. S. Navy (invalided), with dispatches from the U. S. Legation in Chili, and Lieut. Bartlett, U. S. Navy, (late commander of the U. S. schooner Ewing,) with despatches from California for the Department of the Navy, and U. S. Coast Survey.

We learn that Lieut. Barlett also brings the charts of the new survey of the Columbia river, showing the lately discovered channel now in daily use, and a new chart of the coast of California and Oregon, from Monterey to the Columbia river, or 600 miles of coast thoroughly examined and laid down, by Lieuts. Commanding McArthur and Bartlett, with their hydrographical party of the U. S. Coast Survey, since April last. These important charts, which have been so highly praised by the press of San Francisco and Oregon, will be at once laid before Professor Bache, Superintendent U. S. Coast Survey for his examination, approval, and publication.

D. H. Haskell, esq., the San Francisco partner of Adams & Co., is also a passenger by the Crescent City. The Californians gave Mr. H. a splendid dinner previous to his departure.

The Schoolmasterb Aroad.

Since HORACE MANN turned his attention to politics, the common schools are producing some uncommon specimens of fancy spelling.

As Mr. YELLOWPLUSH says, "phansy the pheelinks" of the *captator verborum*, on beholding such a specimen as this in a Boston paper.

"The following is a literal copy of a letter sent to a medical gentleman:

"Cer—Yole oblige me if yole kum un come I have a Bad Kowld, and Hill in my Bow Hills and have lost my Happy Tight."

Free Spelling.

We subjoin another specimen of free spelling from a Boston paper.

In a neighboring village, in an adjoining State, the following notice is posted in a barroom:—

"The members of the Liseum will meet on Wensday evning to discuss the following questun: Should a man be gided by publick oppinion or not?"

Inveterate Jokers.

We have heard of a very merry gentleman who disposed of five wives by tickling the soles of their feet until they fell into convulsions, and died. The Court however could not relish this practical joke, and *suspended* the humorist from the exercise of his functions.

The Boston idea of humor seems very similar to that of the individual referred to, judging from the following announcement in the Boston *Transcript*:

We do not believe there will be any serious resistance to the execution of the law in Boston.

☞ A complimentary dinner has been given to Senator DOWNS, in the parish of Ouachita, at which resolutions, approving the Compromise, were adopted. Messrs. CLAY, WEBSTER, CASS and FOOTE, were also thanked for their advocacy of it. Mr. DOWNS delivered a speech in response to the toast. The *True Delta* says, the meeting was a large one, composed of members of both of the late parties.

☞ The North Carolina *Mountain Banner* contains the following notice of the triumphant manner in which the gallant CLINGMAN has been sustained at home:

MESSRS. CLINGMAN AND BAXTER.—These gentlemen addressed the people at this place on last Wednesday, but we have to regret that our engagements were such as to prevent us from hearing them. We believe we did them both justice last week, and we will only add that it is our belief that Mr. Clingman is now stronger in his District than he has ever been before. Col. Baxter is a popular man and a beautiful speaker, but we doubt his ability to affect Mr. Clingman.

CHOLERA AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.—The Louisville Courier, of the 15th instant, learns that the cholera, or a similar disease, has broken out at Indianapolis, Indiana, and created quite a panic among the members of the Convention there assembled. The first victim was a person who arrived from Madison in the cars, on the 13th, and died that night. J. S. Johnson, a colored barber, who shaved the deceased, was next taken and died in four hours. Mr. Van Ben Thuson, of Shelby county, Indiana, the oldest member of the Convention, was also attacked and died early on the 14th. Another man, whose name was not known, also died. The Sergeant-at-Arms to the Convention was very ill, when the cars left Indianapolis on the 14th, and not expected to recover. It was thought the Convention would adjourn on the 15th.

The Corporate Authorities of Washington and Georgetown have designated the 28th November for Thanksgiving Day.

☞ We find in the Baltimore *Patriot* this notice of the author of one of the best American novels we have ever read.

The following just criticism we take from the Methodist Protestant, whose opinion, in such matters, cannot be questioned:

F. W. THOMAS, ESQ.—This gentleman, favorably known in the walks of literature, and who has recently taken up his residenuee in Baltimore, gave a lecture last week at the Murray Institute of this city, on Oratory in General, and on the Oratory of Summerfield and Bascom in particular.

Lectures on oratory are mostly fulsome affairs. Those who attempt the theme generally seem to suppose it necessary that they should be themselves personal illustrations of the superiority of their peculiar theories. A lecture upon oratory, therefore, is generally little more than a succession of very desperate and very abortive efforts to play the orator. Indeed we have scarcely ever, of late years, heard any thing of this kind that did not give us a slight spasmodic twitch of what a plain spoken man would call—disgust.

It was not so with the lecture of Mr. Thomas. Its striking peculiarity was common sense, or rather uncommon sense. He held his audience breathless for more than an hour, and yet did not seem to be TRYING TO DO IT. His theory of oratory may be comprised in a single word—NATURALNESS. This theory, enforced with the illustrations and reflections and criticisms of Mr. Thomas, could not fail to make its impression on the young men of the Lyceum, and guard them against that imitation and mouthing which are so generally destructive of the happiest effect in public speaking. On the whole, this was the best lecture we ever heard upon the subject of public speaking, and we only regret that our space does not allow a general analysis of its subject-matter.

Crumbs of Comfort.

The submission papers of the South not being able, unfortunately, to derive "aid and comfort" to their cause from *what is done* at the North, seek a forlorn consolation from what the President and other Northern gentlemen *say.*

In addition to the letter to Mr. COLLINS paraded conspicuously in all these prints, we find the following additional crumb of comfort in the Georgia papers:

The Griffin *Whig* says that General Twiggs passed through that place on Sunday the 2nd inst., on his way South, and that in conversation with a gentleman he related the following:

Gen. Twiggs having been on a tour in the Northern States, and on his way South, came through Washington. Having never seen Mr. Fillmore, he desired to do so, and called on him. No person being present to give him an introduction, he approached and said, "I am General Twiggs of Georgia." The President received him kindly, and they commenced conversation, during which the General mentioned the excitement in the Northern States in opposition to the Fugitive slave law, and referred to the fact that an organization had been formed in Boston, with the determination to resist the law and prevent its execution if any attempt should be made to enforce it in that city. To which Mr. Fillmore replied to about this affect:

"General Twiggs, the people of Boston ought to know that they cannot nullify a law of Congress, while I am President. If they act so silly as to resist the officers in the execution of the law, and become too strong to be controlled by the civil authorities, *I have no doubt but that the United States regulars will bring them to their senses in a short time.*"

Your "IF" is a mighty peacemaker, truly!

We do not, and never have blamed the President for not using force in this matter, for reasons already given—but this kind of talk in the teeth of the Crafts' case is really ludicrous, rather than tragic.

The Lind Fever.

The Lind fever rages as violently as ever at the North. The Buffalo *Courier* announces on the authority of BARNUM himself, that JENNY LIND will, previous to her departure for Europe, give one concert in Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Utica, and two in Albany. Also, that Mr. B. has engaged JOSEPH BURKE, the violinist, to accompany Miss LIND during the residue of her tarry in this country.

The New York *Mirror* goes into convulsions of ecstacy thus:

We believe the London Times and New York Herald have failed to trace the Lind demonstration to the right cause. The excitement cannot properly be credited to the American press, only so far as it was the organ through whose agency the *goodness* of Miss Lind was communicated to the people of the United States. The Swedish Nightingale has become celebrated throughout the country for her unexampled charity; for that reason thousands were anxious to behold her, who otherwise would never have attended her concerts. This is an element in her brilliant career, which the Times does not comprehend. It is impossible to describe the enthusiasm which Jenny Lind has created in the minds of our people, and especially the religious portion of them, by the unaffected kindness of her heart. It is illustrated in the remark of a lady who said the first time she saw her, the tears started to her eyes, and she felt an irresistible desire to encircle Jenny's waist with her arms and kiss her.

The same "irresistible desire" has often been inspired by young ladies not so vocal as Miss JENNY—though the fact is stated as something very singular. The *reflections* of the *Mirror* are true to nature in this. But even the *Puritan* Recorder, like its namesakes of old, owns to being be-witched, and stamps her musical orthodoxy by a strain of puritanic praise.

What would COTTON MATHER, famed for his short and easy method of disposing of witches, have thought of such allusions to "a singing woman?"

JENNY LIND.—Our memory is still, and long will be, vocal with her unforgotten notes; and particularly with her execution of Handel's master-piece—"I know that my Redeemer liveth." To hear her performance was like listening to a most solemn confession of faith from all the pious dead who are sleeping in Jesus. In listening to those strains, one might well have said to her, even thanking Shelley for the words,

My soul is an enchanted boat
Which, like a sleeping swan, doth float
Upon the silver waves of thy sweet singing;
And thine doth like an angel sit
Beside the helm conducting it,
While all the winds with melody are ringing.
[*Puritan Recorder.*

The Louisiana *Statesman* says:

STARVED OUT.—The runaway negroes, who fled from New York and other States to Canada to avoid the law of Congress, were starved out, and are now returning. This is a pointed illustration of British philanthropy. They encourage abolition until it touches their pockets. These negroes will yet be glad to escape the clutches of British and Yankees, and get back to the corncribs and smoke-houses of their Southern owners.

SPECIAL ELECTION IN VIRGINIA.—N. C. Claiborne, esq., has resigned his seat as a delegate for Franklin county, Va., in the next General Assembly, and by the Governor's proclamation an election to fill the vacancy will be held on the 25th of this month. There are several members of the legislature, who, like Mr. C., hold seats in the Convention.

Southern Movements.

One of the Mobile papers says:

DIRECT TRADE.—At the meeting of the Southern Rights Association last Monday night, a committee was appointed to enquire into the expediency, cost, &c., of building eight steam-propellers, capable of carrying 3,000 bales of cotton, with a view of promoting a direct trade between Mobile and Europe.

The Charleston *Mercury* contains the following suggestions:

STEAM PACKETS TO EUROPE.—The project of a line of steam packets between Charleston and Liverpool has been taken up in earnest by some of our most substantial and public spirited citizens, and under auspices which justify the strongest hopes of a successful result. Facts and estimates have been furnished by gentlemen of large experience and eminent practical ability, which demonstrate that, as a mere pecuniary speculation, this enterprise offers assurance of a fair remuneration, and that without going beyond our present abundant materials of commerce, which now give profitable employment to the commercial marine of a section which devotes its gains to the support of an embittered and systematic hostility, not only to our prosperity, but to our very existence. That the effect of such an enlargement of our means of foreign trade would form a new era in the commercial and business prospects of our city, we need not undertake to demonstrate. It is manifest that within the Union steam communication affords the only hope of saving a remnant of our foreign trade from the devouring influence of that centralization of which the South has been so long the victim. It is equally manifest, that out of the Union, the power of the South to maintain her independence, and give full value to her vast resources, will be essentially aided by a preparation equally adapted to the exigencies of war and peace. It would be an assertion of our independence by a means most effectual for maintaining it. It is not merely, therefore, as a temporary or pecuniary advantage to our city, that this project addresses itself to the cordial approval and support of the people of South Carolina. It has the highest public considerations in its favor.

From the same paper we also clip this explanation:

NORTH CAROLINA COASTERS.—The Newbern (N. C.) Republican, after stating that the people of Beaufort. N. C. are fittiug out coasters for the rice trade of our State, intimates the possibility that our police laws might interfere with the owners navigating them with their own slaves. It is important that it should be understood, that the police laws of South Carolina were intended in no sort as a precaution against the introduction of slaves, either for permanent settlement or temporary employment. The owners of slaves in North Carolina can employ them in our coasting trade, as freely as our own citizens. It is only "free colored persons" who come under the restrictions of our police laws. —*Charleston News.*

General Banking & Exchange Business.

CO-PARTNERSHIP.

THE undersigned respectfully announce to the public that they have entered into co-partnership for the transaction of a general Exchange and Banking business in the city of Washington, under the firm of SELDEN, WITHERS, & CO.

All business entrusted to them will be attended to with promptness and fidelity.

WILLIAM SELDEN,
Late Treasurer of the U. S.
JOHN WITHERS,
Of Alexandria, Virginia.
R. W. LATHAM,
Of the City of Washington.
L. B. BAYNE,
*Of Baltimore, Maryland