From the Democratic Review for April.

The Progress of Constitutional Reform in the United States.

(Continued.)

Texas.—The Constitution under which the State of Texas commenced her national existence as a member of this Republic, was adopted in Convention, at the city of Austin, on the 4th day of July last; and was approved by the people on the 13th day of October following. The Hon. Thomas J. Rusk, President, and James H. Raymond was Clerk of the Convention. The Constitution closely resembles that of Louisiana, from which its spirit, and many of its provisions, are obviously derived. It contains some features peculiar to itself, and entirely unknown to the country. The results of their labors exhibit less faith, and a greater disposition to feel contented with providing for the present merely, than will be remarked in the Constitution of their more experienced and deliberate neighbors of Louisiana.

The following are among the most interesting provisions of the Texian Constitution:

"Every free male person who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, and who shall be a citizen of the United States, or who is at the time of the adoption of this Constitution by the Congress of the United States, a citizen of the republic of Texas, and shall have resided in this State one year next preceding an election, and the last six months within the district, county, city, or town in which he offers to vote, (Indians not taxed, Africans and descendants of Africans excepted,) shall be deemed a qualified elector; and should such qualified elector happen to be in any other county situated in the district in which he resides at the time of an election, he shall be permitted to vote for any district officer any where in the State; provided that the qualified electors shall be permitted to vote any where in the State for State officers; and provided, further, that no soldier, seaman, or marine, in the army or navy of the United States, shall be entitled to vote at any election created by this Constitution.

"All free male persons over the age of twenty-one years, (Indians not taxed, Africans and descendants of Africans excepted,) who shall have resided six months in Texas, immediately preceding the acceptance of this Constitution by the Congress of the U. States, shall be deemed qualified electors.

"The Legislative power is vested in a Senate and House of Representatives, who shall be chosen at biennial elections and *biennial sessions*. The Senators are elected for four years; half going out every two years.

"No Senator or Representative shall, during the term for which he may be elected, be eligible to any civil office of profit under this State, which shall have been created, or the emoluments of which may have been increased during such term: and no member of either House of the Legislature shall, during the term for which he is elected, be eligible to any office or place, the appointment to which may be made in whole or in part, by either branch of the Legislature; nor shall the members thereof be capable of voting for a member of their own body, for any office whatever, except it be in such cases as are herein provided. The President for the time being of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall be elected from their respective bodies.

"No judge of any court of law or equity, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Clerk of any Court of Record, Sheriff, or Collector, or any person holding a lucrative office under the United States, or this State, or any foreign government, shall be eligible to the Legislature, nor shall at the same time hold or exercise any two offices, agencies or appointments of trust or profit under this State: Provided, that offices of the militia, to which there is attached no annual salary, or the office of justice of the peace, shall not be deemed lucrative.

"No person who has been entrusted with public moneys, shall be eligible to any office of profit or trust under the State government, *until he shall have obtained a discharge for the amount of all moneys so entrusted.*

"Clergymen are ineligible to the Legislature."

"No bill is to have the force of a law until on three several days it be read in each House and free discussion be allowed thereon, *unless in case of great emergency four-fifths of the House in which the bill may be pending, may deem it expedient to dispense with this rule.*

"After a bill or resolution has been rejected by either branch of the Legislature, no bill or resolution containing the same substance shall be passed into a law during the same session."

The judicial organization of Texas closely resembles that of Louisiana, except that it grants to the Legislature the power of creating such tribunals inferior to the Supreme and District Courts, as from time to time they may deem necessary. We think Louisiana has wisely denied to the Legislature any right to multiply courts of any kind.

The Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction only, which is co-extensive with the State, but in criminal cases, and in appeals from interlocutory judgments, subject to be regulated by the Legislature. The judges of this court also have power to issue the writ of habeas corpus, and under such regulations as may be prescribed by law, may issue writs of mandamus, and such other writs as shall be necessary to enforce its own jurisdiction; and also compel a judge of the District Court to proceed to trial and judgment in a cause.

"The District Court shall have original jurisdiction of all criminal cases, of all suits in behalf of the State to recover penalties, forfeitures and escheats, and of all cases of divorce, and of all suits, complaints and pleas whatever, *without regard to any distinction between law and equity*, when the matter in controversy shall be valued at, or amount to, one hundred dollars, exclusive of interests; and the said courts, or the judges thereof, shall have power to issue all writs necessary to enforce their own jurisdiction, and give them a general superintendence and control over inferior jurisdictions.

"And in the trial of all criminal cases, the *jury trying the same shall find and assess the amount of punishment to be inflicted, or fine imposed;* except in capital cases, and where the punishment or fine imposed shall be specifically imposed by law.

"There shall be a clerk of the District Court for each county, *who shall be elected by the qualified voters for members of the Legislature*, and who shall hold his office for four years, subject to removal by information, or by presentment of a grand jury and conviction of a petit jury. In case of vacancy, the judge of the district shall have the power to appoint a clerk until a regular election can be held.

"The judges of the Supreme and District Courts are appointed by the Governor, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the Senate, and hold their seat for six years.

"In the trial of *all causes in equity in the District Court*, the plaintiff or defendant shall, upon application made in open court, *have the right of trial by jury, to be governed by the rules and regulations prescribed in trials at law.*

"No law shall be revised or amended by its title; but in such case the act revised or section amended shall be re-enacted and published at length.

"The Governor is elected for two years, but is not eligible for more than four years in any term of six.

"His veto has the same force as in Louisiana.

"Nominations to fill all vacancies that may have occurred during the recess, shall be made to the Senate during *the first ten days of its session.* And should any nomination so made be rejected, the same individual shall not again be nominated during the session to fill the same office. *And should the Governor fail to make nominations to fill any vacancy, during the session of the Senate, such vacancy shall not be filled by the Governor until the next meeting of the Senate.*

"The Governor shall reside, during the session of the Legislature, at the place where their sessions may be held, and at all other times wherever, in their opinion, the public good may require.

Duelling is visited with the same political disabilities as in Louisiana.

"Every person shall be disqualified from holding any office of trust or profit in this State, who shall have been convicted of having given or offered a bribe to procure his election or appointment."

This provision is very indefinite. It may be doubted whether it forbids the candidate procuring an agent to present the bribe, and also whether he is disqualified from holding any other office than that for which he has offered to bribe.

The following excellent provision, relating to compensation of officers, we hope will commend themselves to the favor and imitation of every State in the Union.

"The Legislature shall provide by law, for the compensation of all officers, servants, agents, and public contractors not provided for by this Constitution; *and shall not grant extra compensation to any officer, agent, servant or public contractor, after such public service shall have been performed, or contract entered into for the performance of the same;* nor grant by appropriation or otherwise, any amount of money out of the treasury of the State, to any individual, on a claim real or pretended, where the same shall not have been provided for by pre-existing law. Provided, that nothing in this section shall be so construed as to affect the claims of persons against the Republic of Texas, heretofore existing.

The Legislature shall have power to provide for deductions from the salaries of public officers, who may neglect the performance of any duty that may be assigned them by law.

"The laws of the State are to be digested *every ten years*, and no law shall be revised or amended by its title; but the act revised or section amended shall be re-enacted and published at length.

"No divorce shall be granted by the Legislature."

The following provisions are unknown to any other American Constitution, and contain principles of exceeding importance and value. We hope that in some form, they may find their way into the fundamental law of the whole confederacy.

"All property, both real and personal of the wife, owned or claimed by her before marriage, and that acquired afterwards by gift, devise, or descent, shall be her separate property; and laws shall be passed more clearly defining the rights of the wife, in relation as well to her separate property as that held in common with her husband. Laws shall also be passed providing for the registration of the wife's separate property.

"The Legislature shall have power to protect by law, from forced sale, a certain portion of the property of all heads of families. The homestead of a family not to exceed two hundred acres of land, (not included in a town or city,) or any town or city lot or lots, in value not to exceed two thousand dollars, shall not be subject to forced sale for any debts hereafter contracted; nor shall the owner if a married man, be at liberty to alienate the same, unless by the consent of the wife, in such manner as the Legislature may hereafter point out."

The following provision would seem to indicate that Texas, though a foreign and independent power for the period, had profited far more by the political experience of our people, than had they by whom that experience had been endured.

"No corporate body shall hereafter be created, renewed or extended, *with banking or discounting privileges.*

"No private corporation shall be created, unless the bill creating it shall be passed by two-thirds of both houses of the Legislature; and two-thirds of the Legislature shall have power to revoke and repeal all private corporations, by making compensation for the franchise. *And the State shall not be part owner of the stock or property belonging to any corporation.*

"The Aggregate amount of debts hereafter contracted by the Legislature, shall never exceed the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, except in case of war, to repel invasions, or suppress insurrections. And in no case shall any amount be borrowed except by a vote of two-thirds of both houses of the Legislature."

The following regulations respecting property in slaves, are as judicious and tolerable as were to have been expected under the circumstances.

"The Legislature shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves, without the consent of their owners; nor without paying their owners, previous to such emancipation, a full equivalent in money for the slaves so emancipated. They shall have no power to prevent emigrants to this State from bringing with them such persons as are deemed slaves by the laws of any of the United States, so long as any person of the same age or description shall be continued in slavery by the laws of this State; *provided*, that such slave be the *bona fide* property of such emigrants: *provided*, also, that laws shall be passed to inhibit the introduction into this State, of slaves who have committed high crimes in other States or territories. They shall have the right to pass laws to permit the owners of slaves to emancipate them, saving the rights of creditors, and preventing them from becoming a public charge. They shall have full power to pass laws, which will oblige the owners of slaves to treat them with humanity; to provide for them necessary food and clothing; to abstain from all injuries to them, extending to life or limb; and in case of their neglect or refusal to comply with the directions of such laws, to have such slave or slaves taken from such owner, and sold for the benefit of such owner or owners. They may pass laws to prevent slaves from being brought into this State as merchandise only.

"In the prosecution of slaves for crimes of a higher grade than petit larceny, the Legislature shall have no power to deprive them of an impartial trial by a petit jury."

The Legislature is directed to set apart one-tenth of the annual revenue, derivable from taxation, to constitute a fund for the support of free public schools.

Missouri.—The new Constitution of Missouri yet awaits to be approved of by the people. It was adopted by the Convention held at the city of Jefferson, on the 14th day of January last. It will be submitted to the people on the first Monday of August next, and if they accept it, it will go into effect in the month of November following. The Hon. R. W. Wells was President, and R. Walker Secretary of the Convention, and in the list of Delegates we observe the names of many gentlemen of distinguished abilities and consideration. The new Constitution is full of very important improvements upon its predecessor of 1820, which it is expected to supersede.

Among other things it provides:

"That the Legislative power shall be vested in a Senate and House of Representatives, to be styled the General Assembly, and the delegates to both bodies are *to be elected* from *single districts*, (that is, each delegate to have his distinct constituency,) and to hold *biennial* sessions.

"The Senate shall consist of not less than twenty-five, nor more than thirty-three members.

"No person holding any lucrative office under the United States, or of this State, except militia officers, justices of the peace and postmasters, shall be eligible to the General Assembly.

"No defaulter to the State treasury shall be eligible to any office of trust or profit, until he shall have accounted for and paid over all sums for which he is so accountable."

We doubt if any mode is known this side of the Mississippi river, of reconciling the two next following provisions, the first of which occurs in the 3d article of the Constitution, and the other in the 11th, which is entitled "Declaration of Rights."

"*No person while he continues to exercise the functions of a bishop, priest, or clergyman, or teacher of any religious persuasion, denomination, society, or sect whatever, shall be eligible to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or to either house of the General Assembly, nor to the office of Judge in any Court of Record.*

"*No person, on account of his religious opinions, can be rendered ineligible to any office of trust or profit under this State;* that no preference can ever be given by law to any sect or mode of worship; and that no religious corporation can ever be established in this State. No religious sect or society should be permitted to accumulate or hold in mortmain large bodies of land or other property, and all extensive ecclesiastical perpetuities are dangerous to liberty: *Provided, That any religious society may hold, in any assumed name, so much land as may be necessary for a house and buildings for public worship—for a pastorage, and for a burying ground—and for no other purpose whatever; but no congregation for such purposes shall own more than one acre of land in a town, nor more than ten acres in the county; And provided*, That nothing in this section shall ever be construed to divest any right or title heretofore vested."

No member of the General Assembly shall be appointed to any civil office in the State during the term for which he is elected, unless he be elected thereto by the people.

"Every person who shall directly or indirectly give, or offer any bribe to procure his election or appointment to any office, or the election or appointment of any other person, shall, on conviction, be disqualified for an elector, and for any office of honor, profit, or trust, under this State."

The State may be prosecuted in the civil tribunals.

The General Assembly may deduct from the salary of public officers, for neglect of duty in their official capacity.

"It shall be the duty of the General Assembly, as soon as may be, to pass such laws as may be necessary. *First*, to prevent free negroes and mulattoes from coming to and settling in this State, under any pretext whatever; *Provided*, that nothihg in this Constitution shall be construed to conflict with the provisions of the first clause of the second section of the fourth article of the Constitution of the United States."

It is fortunate for the credit of the Convention that the above section, with its limitation, means nothing.

The General Assembly cannot grant divorce in any case.

Any party engaged, or any way concerned, with fighting a duel, is thereby disqualified for holding any office, civil or military, in the State.

All the State laws, both civil and criminal nature, shall be revised once in every sixteen years.

The Governor is elected for four years, and ineligible for the next four.

The Governor's veto may, upon due consideration, be overruled by a majority—and he shall have the same veto upon the joint resolutions of the two houses, except in case of adjournments, as in the case of a bill.

The judicial organization presents some valuable improvements, but we think it too many stories high. The combination of law and equity is well.

"The judicial power, as to matters of law and equity, shall be vested in a Supreme Court, Circuit Courts, County Courts, Justices of the Peace, and such other tribunals inferior to the Circuit Courts, as the General Assembly may, from time to time, ordain or establish.

"The Supreme Court, except in cases otherwise directed by this Constitution, shall have appellate jurisdiction only, which shall be co-extensive with the State, under the restrictions and limitations in this Constitution provided.

"The Supreme Court shall have a general superintending control over all inferior courts; it shall have power to issue writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto, information in the nature of writs of quo warranto, certiorari, and other original remedial writs, and to hear and determine the same.

"The Supreme Court shall consist of three Judges, any two of whom shall be a quorum; it shall hold two sessions annually at the seat of Government, until otherwise directed by law.

"The Governor shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint the Judges of the Supreme Court: each judge shall be appointed for the term of twelve years: and every appointment to fill a vacancy, shall be for the residue of the term only, but in all cases the Judge shall hold over until a successor shall be appointed and qualified."

No Judge of the Circuit Court shall be elected or appointed to any office of honor, profit or trust, under the Government of this State, during the term for which he shall have been elected or appointed, except that a Judge of the Circuit Court may be appointed to the Supreme Court; Provided, that if any Judge shall resign his office, he shall not be ineligible to any office for a longer period than twelve months after such resignation. If any Judge shall *offer or consent to be a candidate for any office under the Government of the United States, such offer or consent shall be taken and considered a voluntary resignation of his office.*

"The State shall be divided into ten compact convenient circuits, which number of circuits shall not be increased within ten years after the adoption of this Constitution.

"For each circuit there shall be a *Judge chosen by the qualified voters therein, who shall hold his office for the term of six years*, and until his successor shall be elected and qualified. When a vacancy shall happen in the office of Circuit Judge, within one year of the expiration of the term for which he was elected, such vacancy shall be filled by an appointment by the Governor: in all other cases of vacancy it shall be filled by an election. He shall receive, at stated times, an adequate compensation for his services, to be fixed by law, which shall not be diminished during the term for which he shall have been elected. After his election he shall reside and be a conservator of the peace in said circuit."

The Circuit Court, as Court of Chancery, shall have power to grant divorces in all cases as prescribed by law; to make such provision for the aggrieved party, as the custody, support and education of minor children, as shall be just and equitable.

The Supreme Court and Circuit Court shall exercise chancery jurisdiction, in such manner and under such restrictions as shall be prescribed by law.

Clerks of the County and Circuit Courts, and justices of the peace, are elective.

The day for electing Judicial Officers, and County Clerks, shall be distinct from the day for holding any other election in the State.

"Any Judge of the Supreme or Circuit Court may be removed from office on the address of three-fifths of each house of the General Assembly to the Governor for that purpose: but each house shall state on its journal the cause for which it may desire the removal of such Judge, and give him notice thereof, and he shall have the right to be heard in his defence, in such manner as the General Assembly shall direct: but no judge shall be removed for any cause for which he might have been impeached."

All fines and forfeitures that may accrue according to law, are to be added to the school fund.

"*The General Assembly shall have no power to pass any law whereby any debt shall be created, that shall cause the entire indebtedness of the State contracted under this Constitution, to exceed at any one time, twenty-five thousand dollars*, except in cases of war, insurrection or invasion.

But the General Assembly may propose by a vote of a majority of all the members elected to both branches thereof, the creation of a debt for any specified purpose, which shall be submitted to the direct vote of the people at the next general election thereafter, and if approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting on such questions, shall be of full force and effect: provided, that each proposition shall be for one object alone, and shall propose the ways and means, by taxation, for the payment of the debt and interest as they become due; and provided further, that no more than one proposition shall be submitted by any one session of the General Assembly, and that the debt proposed shall not have a longer time to run than twenty years.

"*No corporate body shall hereafter be created, renewed or extended with the privilege of making, issuing, or putting in circulation, any bill, check, ticket certificate, promissory note or other paper, or the paper of any other bank, to circulate as money.*

"No corporation, except for political or municipal purposes, or for the purposes of education or charity, shall be created, unless the bill creating the same shall contain a provision that the charter of such corporation may be repealed and annulled by a majority of both Houses of the General Assembly. And the stockholders in all private corporations, except corporations for the purposes of education and of charity, shall be responsible, in their individual and private capacity, for all debts and liabilities of every kind, incurred by such incorporation. Nor shall any corporation be created for a longer period than twenty years; and no corporation shall exercise any privileges prohibited in the preceding section. And the State shall not be part owner of the stock or property belonging to any corporation. Nor shall the common school or seminary funds, nor any other funds or moneys which the State may, at any time, hold in trust for the citizens of this State, be placed in, or loaned to any bank, or other incorporated institution.

"The Legislature shall prohibit, by law, individuals and corporations, except the Bank of the State of Missouri, and its branches, from issuing bills, checks, tickets, promissory notes, or other paper to circulate as money. No lottery shall be authorized by this State, and the buying or selling of lottery tickets within this State is prohibited."

When in speaking of the Constitution of Louisiana, we expressed our sense of its superiority overy other Constitution *in force*, of which we had any knowledge, of course our criticism bore no reference to that of Missouri, which had not yet been finally approved. If this instrument should ever receive the approbation of the people, for whom it was designed, it will in our judgment, constitute the most complete code of organic law which has yet been devised for the government of civil society. It contains several peculiarities, which, as the State becomes more populous and wealthy, will occasion trouble; it is obliged, likewise, to provide for the institution of slavery, which is not reconcilable with the most exalted civilization, and it contains no sufficient protection from the evils of executive patronage; but it nevertheless affords more efficient guaranties to individual rights, and leaves fewer opportunities for political corruption, and for intercepting the fair expression of the wishes of the people, than the Constitution of any other State in the Union. It will undoubtedly be approved; and we think Missouri may safely promise herself a career of prosperity and happiness, which her sister States may reasonably envy.

It is worthy of remark, that the four Constitutions which we have been considering, have the three following important particulars in common: They all limit the official term of the Judiciary.

All provide for biennial sessions of the Legislatnre, and all impose civil disabilities upon the clergy. Of the two first we entirely and cordially approve. Of the last, we have before, in speaking of a like provision in the Constitution of New York, expressed our regret that the sanctuary of our political faith should have ever given refuge to a principle of legislation so intolerant and so mean.

GLORIOUS DEMOCRATIC TRIUMPH!

Connecticut wheeled into line!!

From the Hartford Times.

OVERTHROW OF WHIGGERY AND ITS MEASURES.

LEGISLATURE AND STATE TICKET SAFE.

It is with feelings of pleasure that we announce to our friends abroad, the result of the election in this State, on Monday. The people have met the *measures* of the Whigs, though the Whigs themselves skulked from the issues, and played, so far as they could, a double game.

The election was for State officers and the Legislature. There is no choice of State officers by the people, but

Both Houses of the Legislatuare are Safe,

and on the Legislature, by joint ballot, depends the election of State officers. Of course, the Democratic ticket will be elected.

On scanning the returns, and calculating for the most unfavorable result that may be anticipated from the towns to be heard from, and the second elections, we are led to the unerring certainty of a

Noble Democratic Triumph.

We have no room to particularize, as we could wish, to-day; but it is gratification enough to announce the result.

A Thousand Cheers for old Connecticut.

The vote for Governor stands:

For Toucey, Dem.,	24,586
Bissell, Whig,	25,344
Gillette, Abo. and Scattering,	1,640

No choice by the people, but the Legislature will no doubt elect Toucey.

We shall have certainly one majority in the Senate, and possibly 3.

THE HOUSE.—We have heard from 137 towns, out of 144, (leaving 7 towns to be heard from,) and the result in these is—

Democrats,	97
Whigs	76
Abolition,	1
No choice,	21
No choice for second Rep.,	3

In the towns yet to vote, and to be heard from, the Democrats are sure of half—probably more.

☞Speaking of the "Whig Victory" in New Hampshire, the Crawfordsville "Press" says—"The majority may not be, and is not, quite so large for the Whigs as at first supposed," yet that the "splendor of the victory is nothing diminished thereby!" This is *rich!* The whig "majority" is in truth a *minority* of 19,000 votes. Out of twelve Senatorial districts, the federalists have not elected a single Senator! They had a *plurality* in barely one district, the ninth.

☞The *Cincinnati Chronicle*, though a thorough whig paper, occasionally treats democratic men and things with generosity. As an instance of it, take the following paragraph in relation to Gen. CASS, which appears in that paper of the 10th inst:

SENATOR CASS.—An article crept into our paper yesterday from the *Louisville Journal*, the tenor of which we disapprove. We shall never depreciate, even by implication, the character or services of any man, because he differs from us in opinion, or pursues a path of conduct different from our own. His principles, his systems, or his politics, we may oppose; but whatever is true or honorable in his character should be held sacred.

Governor Cass is a gentleman, a scholar, and a patriot—a much better patriot than the George M'Duffies, the Mr. Haywoods, *et id emne genus*, who, content with the selfish interests of Slavery, and the baser ambition of Slave Politics, chime in to the tune of England and Free Trade.

As to the military services of Cass, they certainly were not eminent; but they were all he was called upon to perform, and they were performed faithfully. If he broke his sword in the surrender of Hull, he did what most of the Officers of the Army did. They were filled with shame and anguish at the deep disgrace, the bitter ignominy of that sad disaster. It were well if some of those who, in the American Senate, sympathize so strongly with English interests and principles, were *capable* of that sort of shame. It would be well to produce some proof that their blood had not, by a strange freak of Nature, been turned into a dish of skim milk.

We never were for war. We never were for the line of 54 deg. 40 as a *sine qua non*. But we do most heartily despise that species of *Toryism* which selfishness is fast inflicting upon some of the public men of this country, when both honor and patriotism shall have left the hearts of public men? What will be the value of virtue, and what the uses of peace?

The Florida *Democrat* says: Cliques of all sorts we have ever despised, because we always suspect their honesty, and we have never seen it otherwise than that *personal ambition* was the presiding genius in them."

This is our own opinion precisely. The only clique we ever have or shall go for, is the *great clique* of the *People*.

The Michigan Railroad Sale Bill has been signed by the Governor, and is therefore a law. The Detroit Free Press says that "the company will accept its provisions, we entertain not a doubt." A bill for the Southern Railroad is now before the House, and we understand will pass that body.

☞One of the grounds for the defence in the case of Tyrrell, the murderer of Maria Bickford, was that he was at the time of the commission of the act in a state of somnambulism, or sleep-walking, or sleep-waking. New cases of murder are now designated as new instances of *somnambulism* by some of the newspapers.

THE NEW BARQUE BUILT AT MARIETTA, Ohio, and there fitted out for sea, with the exception of her sails, has arrived at New Orleans. She is bound for Boston, and will sail thither, after being furnished with sails, under the command of Capt. Wells. Her cargo, put on board at Marietta, consists of 1400 barrels of pork and 2000 kegs of lard.

☞The Rev. Charles Walker, was lately dismissed from his pastoral charge of Centre Church, Brattleborough, Vt., for preaching a temperance sermon. Those people must be *old fashion* christians.

The Hagerstown, Md. News says that the wheat in that region of country presents a most promising appearance, and is as far advanced as it generally is a month later.

☞A committee of the New York Legislature reported, five to four, a bill to abolish capital punishment, and substitute imprisonment for life. The committee had received a great mass of petitions in favor of the measure, and only one against it.

For the Indiana State Sentinel.

Midnight Musings.

CORINNA.

Life is a dream of shadows: From morn's dawn
Till death and darkness close life's changing scene,
Man dreams of shadows, dreams of flow'ry lawns,
Of joys or sorrows which have never been.
Ah, how the future cheats him! As the bright dawn
Of youth cheats the young child, so cheats it him.
Go ask for happiness on earth or sea,—
Say, was it e'er found, or will it ever be?

Life is a dream of shadows: Ask the wise,
The hoary Seers, whose eyes are dim with age—
They who have climbed for fame the star-lit skies,
And inspiration drank from Nature's page.
Oft have I seen with eagles' pinions rise
The immortal spirit of the sacred Sage
To the great fount of light, to know *this* truth,
Sought by the Fathers from their earliest youth.

Life best is known in death: and oh, my God!
How deeply have I felt "'tis all a dream!"
Whilst kneeling on the lonely verdant sod
('Neath evening's softly-glowing golden beam)
Where sleeps my child in death's cold lone abode.
Then my bruised spirit seeks Thy lethean stream
To drown its sorrows; and before Thy throne,
Prostrate in anguish, makes those sorrows known.

Green is the turf which shrouds my only child,
The dews of night are glistening o'er her tomb,
And there the moss rose, with its sister mild,
The lovely eglantine, in fragrance bloom:
There have I planted many a flow'ret wild—
The pink and vi'let with their sweet perfume—
Emblems of *thee* whose spirit dwells on high,
And of thy father's love, which cannot die.

There too thy mother!—she whose tender breast
Nursed thee in infancy—in sadness weeps:
The cloud of night which bids the weary rest,
Waves not its pinions where thy mother sleeps:
Around her visions of the dreamy past
Float in her slumbers, and in grief she weeps,
As fondly to her breast she clasps her fair:—
Morn comes in glory, but no child is there!

Weary and faint through chambers of the dead,
In doubt and fear man seeks the world on high,
And many a weary foot thy path will tread,
Pilgrims from earth to mansions in the sky.
Yet while we grieve around thy lonely bed,
And weep for one who had so soon to die,
In hope we'll mourn our lov'd one's early doom,
And deck with fairest flowers thy verdant tomb.

The earth on which we tread is one great urn,
One mighty sepulchre is ocean's wave:
From dust man came, and to it must return;
Earth was his cradle and must be his grave;
But from that bourne no travellers e'er return
To tell the dangers which all have to brave,—
The storms, the rocks, the quicksands of that sea
Which bounds this world from dread Eternity!

Yet think, O! think not, tho' the grave is lone,
The Christian trembles at its dreary shade:
No—Faith triumphant views that narrow dome
A peaceful chamber, where the aching head
May rest in silence:—thro' death's wave a home
Rises like evening's star, when o'er the glade
Night throws her mantle, and the ebon sky
Shows but *one* star of all her galaxy.

Union County. JNO. S. REID.

METHODIST E. PASTORAL ADDRESS.—We find in the New York Christian Advocate and Journal, the Pastoral Address of the Baltimore annual conference to the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which is of considerable length. It was adopted by a vote of 177 yeas to 3 nays, and closes with the following resolutions, which embody the views put forth in the report:—

Resolved, 1st. By the Baltimore Annual Conference, in conference assembled, that we still continue to regard ourselves a constituent part of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. [Adopted unanimously.]

Resolved, 2d. That this conference disclaims having any fellowship with abolitionism. On the contrary, while it is determined to maintain its well known and long established position, by keeping the traveling preachers composing its own body free from slavery, it is also determined not to hold connection with any ecclesiastical body that shall make non-slaveholding a condition of membership in the church; but to stand by, and maintain, the discipline as it is. [Adopted unanimously.]

Resolved, 3d. That the decision of this conference at its last session, non-concurring in the proposed alteration of the sixth restriction, was not based upon opposition in the conference to a fair and equitable division and distribution of the property and funds of the Church, as provided for in the "Plan of Separation," to the Church South, but on other grounds altogether. [Ayes 178, nays 1.]

THE SLAVE QUESTION IN THE PHILADELPHIA M. E. CONFERENCE.—We find in the proceedings of the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as reported in the U. S. Gazette, the following in relation to the slave question, which occurred on the presentation of several members for deacon's orders:

"The Rev. Mr. Quigly proposed that each candidate should be asked whether he was a slaveholder; and whether he was engaged in any of the modern movements for promoting the abolition of slavery; and none dissenting, the question was severally asked as follows;

Bishop Hedding—'Are you a slave-holder?'

To which all answered, 'No.'

Bishop Hedding—'Glory to the conference! not one of their souls is stained with the blood of Africa!'

The Bishop then informed the candidate that he was about to put a question, the meaning of which, before put, he was in duty bound to explain, as he understood it. By an 'abolitionist,' in the sense he was about interrogatively to use it, he meant not one who was opposed to the holding of men in bondage for mere gain! for the purpose of growing rich by slave labor; to grind the face of the poor that the master might be exalted; but he meant those who uncharitably denounced men who happened to have been born in a slave-holding State; born in the possession or heritage of slaves; who treated them well, who nurtured the sick and the poor; who did not hold them for mere gain, but for good; who did the best they could under the circumstances. After this explanation the Bishop said that in asking them if they were abolitionists, he meant to ask if they were prepared to 'curse all who were slave-holders, under any and all circumstances?'

Bishop Hedding—'Are you an abolitionist?'

To which all answered, 'No.'

Bishop Hedding—'Thank God! there is none of them willing to cut off the heads of our southern brethren because they happen to hold slaves.'

THE NASHVILLE TRAGEDY.—The following extract of a letter, dated Nashville, March 16, gives some additional matters relative to the recent tragedy enacted in that city:—

"I never saw a whole community aroused to such a pitch of indignation, or such a cry for vengeance, as was manifested in relation to Judson. Porterfield's funeral sermon was preached in the Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Dr. Howell and Dr. Edgar officiated. Before he died he exclaimed, (and they were the first words he spoke after receiving the wound,) 'I forgive Judson and every body in the world.' His wife was present when he expired, and for some three hours before. She asked him if he knew her—to which he replied—'Yes—let me sleep.' This was all he said to her. She seemed much grieved, but no one has any sympathy for her. She is ruined, and an outcast from society."

DREADFUL.—The Woodville (Mi.) Republican gives the following particulars of a dastardly act recently committed in Wilkinson county. Mr. James Hill, a planter, was sitting beside a table, conversing with his lady, on the evening of the 9th ult., when some fiend dischargeda gun, which took effect in his left cheek bone and passed through the other. His lower jaw is broken, his tongue nearly cut off, a ball or shot passed through his nose, one eye destroyed and twelve buckshot loged in head. There are no hopes entertained of his recovery.

A FATHER MURDERED BY HIS OWN SON.—An aged man named Irwin, who resided at the Pennsylvania Furnace, on the line dividing Huntingdon and Centre counties, was murdered by his own son on the 27th ult. It appears that the son was very much addicted to intemperance, and, while laboring under a fit of mania a potu, seized and held his father with one hand, and with the other inflicted several deep and mortal wounds with an axe upon his face. The father lived but a few hours.

Democrats!

The time is at hand, when it becomes you, to look along the lines, and see if you are in trim to meet the opposition. For several years past in Indiana, you have by union, harmony and devotion to principle, won victories that rejoiced the hearts of your friends thoughout the Union. The triumphs thus achieved—the principles thus planted, can only be maintained, by an unyielding devotion to the same means. Division and discord will, assuredly, produce your defeat. New Hampshire—that Gibraltar of democracy—has recently fallen under its paralyzing influence. Upon principles we have been united. Upon them we fear no division. The danger arises from here and there one of our friends, who for the time being, has so far forgotten the value of our principles to the country, and the toil by which they have been elevated in Indiana, as to allow himself to jeopard the success of the party, for the sake of gratifying his love of office. That this is wrong, all reasonable men must allow. If it is permitted by the great mass of the party, defeat may and perhaps will be the result. It, therefore, behooves every democrat to cast his eye along the lines, and see if all is right. It is the business of all and the interest of all; and if division threatens us for one office, its effects will soon be felt and seen, in the contests for all. Everything depends upon union.

To point out a remedy for disunion, when it occurs, is at all times a delicate and difficult task. Sometimes appeals to our friends, are not without effect. They know that our union is necessary to their success. Their defeat is the defeat of the whole party. The whole are deeply interested, and it is much more important to them and their party friends, that they shall succeed, than that either this or that man should be elected. Indeed it is better to be beaten, than to be divided. A united party will be vigilant, vigorous and active, but division discourages and destroys it.

The convention system has been abused, but that it has done much good no one can doubt; but if that mode will not enable the people to choose their own candidates, how will it do to meet at the polls in each township—say the last Saturday in May, and take the votes of the party; and let him who may have the majority, be the candidate for each office, and let all abide by the will of the people. Some mode should be adopted. Democrats, look along the lines, and prepare in time for the coming conflict. See that all is right before the contest begins.—*Ind. Patriot.*

☞The Crawfordsville "Press" calls on us for the "proof" of the truthfulness of the anecdote going the rounds of the press in relation to Mr. Clay's *joke*, while on board the "Old Hickory," when she struck the bank of the river. We copied the anecdote as we found it in some paper which we can't now certainly designate. But we think the anecdote carries authenticity on its face. It is just like Mr. Clay's jokes, and all who are intimate with him will freely admit this much. A thing that is self-evident, don't require "proof." We are *surprised* that the "Press" should require it in such a case.

SPECIE SHIPMENTS.—The whole amount exported hence since March 20th, is about $350,000, to England, France and Canton.—*N. Y. Jour. of Com. Ap.* 9.

The specie will go in spite of the whig tariff. We must have the sub-treasury to stop it!

☞On Sunday, April 4, 7,000 bushels and 1,460 barrels of wheat were received at St. Louis from the Illinois river. The New Era says: "We have no doubt that the imports of produce for the month o. April, will be greater than any other during the year 1846."

☞It is mentioned that in the arctic regions, where the thermometer is below zero, persons can converse at more than a mile distance. Dr. Jamieson mentions that he heard every word of a sermon at the distance of two miles.

POLLY BODINE.—Another trial of this woman is now progressing at Newburgh, N. Y.

SERMON FOR BACHELORS.—The Mirror at Hartford, Connecticut, lately contained a lay sermon for the special benefit of the bachelors, founded on the following text:

"And they called Rebecca, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go."—*Genesis*—xxxvi, 50.

In those times, ceremony, formality, sighing and sentiment were altogether unknown. Rebecca was a good girl, and jumped at the first good offer.

The editor of the Norwich Aurora says he could have picked out a better text to preach before the honorable and venerable fraternity, viz:

"Jacob kissed Rachael."

That is something substantial for bachelors to ponder over. The other text was for the benefit of Rebecca altogether:

"Jacob kissed Rachael, and he lifted up his voice and wept."

How pathetic! The fact is, says the Aurora, time and fashions make strange inroads on poor human nature. Here was jacob scouring the country to look for a wife, and on a fine sunny day in the valley of Padanaram, he saw her at a distance drawing water from a well, being barefooted, and without ceremony he ran towards her and in the language of the good book, "kissed her, and lifted up his voice and wept." We have no account that Rachel boxed his ears for his rudeness, as in these days of simplicity and innocence she would have done, particularly in "good society."

THE MARKETS.

NEW ORLEANS, April 8.—FLOUR.—In our last report we stated that a very large amount of business had been done in Flour towards the close of the week, leaving the market for Ohio brands very firm at $4 37½ per bbl., a price which we observed had been in several instances refused on that day. Since then, in consequence of the extreme inclemency of the weather, the transactions have been materially circumscribed, and the market fails to exhibit the same degree of firmness, purchasers being disinclined to operate so long as they can not readily make their shipments.

GRAIN.—Since our last report, when we observed that a considerable amount of business had been done in Corn during the two days preceding, the market has worn a quiet appearance, influenced to a great extent by the unfavorable character of the weather, which, during a large part of the time, prevented the transaction of any out door business. On Saturday only 3000 bushels were disposed of, comprising 816 sacks mixed at 44c. and 150 do. at 45c. per bushel. Yesterday's sale included a similar quantity, viz: 763 sacks mixed at 45c. and 160 do. white at 44c. per bushel. To-day about 9000 bushels changed hands, amongst which were 900 mixed at 45c., 470 do. at 45, 920 white at 45½, 700 do. at 46, 320 do. at 46c. per bushel. In oats scarcely any business has been going forward, and the few sales we are apprised of are at 32 a 37 cents per bushel, in sacks and in bulk. A lot of 1600 sacks was sold at the latter rate. We are not informed of any transactions in Wheat during the past few days. The price of Beans ranges from $3 a $4 per barrel, according to quality.

PORK.—A fair extent of business has been going forward in Pork since our last report, the sales of the past few days having amounted to 3600 bbls, to effect which, however, holders have, in most instances, submitted to a slight decline.

To-day the sales comprised 1000 bbls. as follows: 100 Mess at $10 87½, 100 do. in lots, at $10 87½ a $11 00, 50 at $11 00, 100 at $11 00, 50 at $11 00, and 500 Prime at $8 95 per bbl.

BACON.—The demand for this