THE TRIBUNE.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1846.

☞ Persons wishing The Tribune left at their residence or at their places of business, will please send a note through the Post Office or leave word at the desk of the publishing office.

SEE SUPPLEMENT TO THIS PAPER.

☞ For full and interesting particulars of the War News see Fourth Page.

☞ *In order to make room for our advertisements we are compelled to issue another SUPPLEMENT this morning, which is served to all our regular subscribers gratis.*

Persons wishing The TRIBUNE left at their residences or places of business will please leave their address at the desk, or send through the Post-Office.

OUTSIDE.—*First Page.*—Lowell—Its Aspects—Manufactures—Conditions and Labor; Lawyers; Social Reform; Henry Clapp, Jr.; The Justice of War on Mexico; New Rates of Postage; New Publications; Freshet and Loss of Life; New-York Legislature; Things in Albany; Law Courts; Daily Arrivals, &c. on the Erie Railroad; Trade of the Hudson; From the Cape de Verde Islands. *Fourth Page.*—A 'Song of Spring,' by a Prison Convict: War Proceedings in Congress; Ampudia's Proclamation; Later from Mexico; Why are we at war? Spirit of the Anniversaries—Foreign Evangelical Society—New-York Sunday School Union—New-York State Colonization Society—American Tract Society—Vigilance Committee; Bank Note Table; Sales of Stocks; Marine News.

Cheap Postage in Danger!

Hon. G. W. HOPKINS of Va. whom we know as an original and inveterate opponent of the Cheap Postage Reform, (as is the Postmaster General, who prompts this movement,) has reported to the House a bill *to increase the present Rates of Postage some fifty per cent!* By this bill, any letter weighing over a quarter of an ounce is to be rated double unless composed of a single piece of paper, and each quarter instead of each half an ounce is to pay one Postage. Here is an increase, to begin with, of nearly a hundred per cent. in Letter Postage. Then letters conveyed over 600 miles are to be charged 18 instead of 10 cents until 1848, and afterward at the option of the Postmaster General. Newspapers sent over 100 miles are to be charged two cents each. The actual average increase of the Rates of Postage by this bill cannot fall short of fifty per cent.

Let us consider facts and reason from them: The Government proposes to raise the Postage on Newspapers above what it has ever been since the War with Great Britain. When the Mails were entirely carried in wagons over land, the charge for carrying a Daily newspaper from this city to Albany was $3 12 per annum. Now a barrel of flour is transported from Albany hither for 10 or 12 cents, and all transportation is immensely facilitated and cheapened; yet the Government seeks to raise the price of carrying a newspaper, with all these facilities, to $6 25 per annum. This is most exorbitant. The Post Office can well afford to transmit Newspapers in the average at least as cheaply as we can print them. Yet while the reader of a Daily or Weekly paper now gets at least four times as much matter as he could get in 1815 for the same money, the Government proposes to double the cost of delivery! This will not answer.

As to Letters, we have already expressed a willingness to submit to the rating of Postage on the basis of counting each quarter-ounce a letter, and would consent to an increased rate for letters carried over 1,000 miles. But to render this endurable, there should be a reduction of Postage on short distances—like this:

For each ¼ ounce carried under 100 miles	3 cents.
" " " " over do. and under 500	5 "
" " " " 500 " 1,000	10 "
Over 1,000 miles and under 2,000	20 "
Over 2,000 miles	25 "

This is the very highest that we could justify as actually needed to make the General Post Office support itself. But to charge a letter sent 650 miles 18 cents, while one sent 2,500 miles is to pay but the same, is hardly right. And, at all events, we protest against any increase of Postage whatever until the Postmaster General shall have revoked his most unwise, unrighteous, plundering order, whereby hundreds of thousands are given to Postmasters as extra compensation in utter defiance of the Constitution and Laws. The compensation of Postmasters in all cases is precisely stipulated by law. In defiance of law, the Postmaster General has directed that Postmasters shall be paid, not the proportion of receipts so prescribed by law, but *an amount equal to their receipts under the old High Postage!*—This atrocious act of nullification has in many instances enabled Postmasters to absorb all the receipts of their several offices, leaving nothing to pay for Mail Transportation. Of course, there is a deficit in the Revenue of the Department, and could not fail to be. And for this the People are called on to pay exorbitant Rates of Postage. Will they not remonstrate to Congress?

In excuse of this lawless, high-handed abstraction of the Post Office Revenues, it is urged that *many Postmasters would have resigned* had they been allowed only so much as the Law gives them. We decidedly doubt this; but what if they *had* resigned? Was Mr. Johnson sure that no suitable persons could be found to fill their places? We do not believe there are one hundred offices in the Union which could not be adequately filled at the rates of compensation prescribed by law. If there be any village where no one will officiate as Postmaster at the established rates, let it go without a little while; the inconvenience cannot be great—But on a fair trial there would hardly be found such a village. The naked truth is that the Post Office cannot be made a Party Hospital, in which those who have suffered wounds and losses in the service of Loco-Focoism may rest and recruit themselves, if the Law is obeyed. The legal compensation will barely pay for the service required, and will afford no surplus for the needs of 'the Party.' Hence the unwarrantable misuse of the Post Office Revenue in paying extra compensation. Hence the call for an enormous increase of the Rates of Postage to cover a moderate and steadily diminishing deficit.—Will not the People consider?

Solon Boyce, Esq.

The bill to establish a State Asylum for Idiots, after passing the Senate owing to the humane exertions of Dr. Backus, was defeated in the Assembly by a vote of 58 to 47. We rejoice to say that only two Whigs opposed it. Comptroller Flagg is said to have personally exerted himself to defeat this bill. There was abundant evidence that the condition of a most unfortunate class might be greatly meliorated by such an Asylum, but all to no purpose. Our distinguished Representative, Gerardus Boyce, spoke against the bill, and his argument is summed up in the report of the Evening Journal as follows:

"Mr. Boyce opposed the bill. Idiots were nothing but paupers and should be supported as such. *He knew from experience that it was impossible to teach idiots any thing.*"

We respectfully suggest that Mr. Boyce's evidence on this point is not conclusive. The 'experience' of his schoolmaster would be to the purpose.

The Rio Grande.

We presume our readers all understand that the *Rio Grande, Rio Bravo* and *Rio del Norte* are so many different names of the same great River, which rises in the Southern slope of the Rocky Mountains and runs nearly due South almost 2,000 miles into the Gulf of Mexico. Its course is in good part through a thinly peopled desert, in some places mountainous, in others composed of wide, sterile plains. Valuable mines of Gold and Silver exist in the province of Santa Fé, some 1,500 miles from its mouth. The River is generally rapid and rocky, rendering navigation dangerous if not impossible, but we believe it may be ascended by steamboats some 4 to 500 miles. Matamoros, some 70 to 80 miles from the Gulf, is the usual head of navigation.

☞ The Reports of several Anniversaries will be found on the Fourth Page.

☞ A LETTER FROM FREDERICK DOUGLASS, the Fugitive Slave, will be found in to-day's Supplement.

THE WAR WITH MEXICO.

Great Meeting at Philadelphia.

PROCEEDINGS IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY,

THE HOUSE FORTIFICATION BILL PASSED BY THE SENATE.

The War Bill sent to the President.

&c. &c. &c.

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

PHILADELPHIA, May 13—11 o'clock P. M.

There was the largest meeting ever witnessed by any one on any occasion, convened at Philadelphia this afternoon, to respond to the proclamation of our worthy Mayor Swift, upon the present condition of affairs here and on the protection of the country.

Mayor Swift presided, assisted by the Recorder, President of the Councils, the Mayor of the Northern Liberties, the Presidents of the Board of Commissioners, and the Chief Burgess of West Philadelphia, as Vice Presidents.

The spirit of the meeting may be seen by the principal Resolution, which was as follows:

Resolved, That while this meeting deeply regrets that negotiations of a friendly character have failed to effect a pacific settlement with our sister Republic, we deem it a duty to make known to the Nation at large, and particularly to the Government, that our full and entire sympathies are with our Country; and that should the exigencies of the matter require it, our services, our fortunes, and our lives are hereby pledged for the preservation of the integrity of the National Domain, the security of the lives and the conservation of the rights of our fellow-citizens, and the honor of our beloved country.

The meeting was ably, effectively and eloquently addressed by many distinguished citizens. Among others by Josiah Randall, Mr. Page, General Peter S. Smith, Judge Conrad, Mayor Swift, P. A. Brown, B. H. Brewster, A. Fall. A fair sprinkling of Whigs, Democrats and Natives.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

Vice President Dallas this morning signed the War Bill.

The President transmitted letters received from Gen. Taylor.

Memorials and petitions were presented and bills were reported.

In SENATE, the House bill making appropriations for fortifications for the next fiscal year, was taken up.

The Committee on Finance had reported an amendment, to the appropriation, assigning two intead of one hundred thousand dollars for the fortifications of Florida Reef at Key West and Dry Tortugas Gut.

This was discussed in the Senate by Lewis, Evans, Yulee and Westcott.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana offered an amendment for repairing forts below New-Orleans, which was rejected.

Mr. JOHNSON of Maryland proposed an appropriation for Soller's Point, which was also rejected.

The amendments of the Finance Committee were all adopted and the bill was passed as this dispatch closes.

The Indian Appropriation bill is under discussion and SEVIER speaking.

In the House the Speaker signed the War bill, which was immediately sent to the President.

A communication was received from the Secretary of the Treasury, stating that the Steam Revenue Cutters would be completed this fall, and asking authority to appoint Engineers. The bill on this subject was then taken up and discussed by Messrs RATHBUN, GORDON, T. B. KING, HOLMES and others, and it was recommitted to the Committee of the Whole with instructions to amend.

The West Point bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and reported to the House, with a recommendation that it pass.

As dispatch closes, BROCKENBROUGH is speaking in favor of fighting the Mexicans, while discussing the Army Appropriation bill.

Stocks improved in Baltimore to-day. W.

CONTENTS OF THE SUPPLEMENT.

The Van Buren and Butler Pamphlets.
Letter from Frederick Douglass.
Lectures and Revelations by a Clairvoyant.

☞ ADVERTISEMENTS will be found in the SUPPLEMENT under the following heads:

Books,	Boarding and Hotels,
Window Shades.	Coal,
Miscellaneous,	Patent Medicines,
Schools,	Legal Notices,
Dry Goods,	Real Estate,
Watches, Jewelry, &c.	India Rubber Goods,
Situations, &c. Wanted.	Insurance,
	Public Conveyances.

Signora Pico's Concert.

Signora Pico's Concert drew a full and brilliant audience. You see good faces among her admirers, for only those who like energy and sensibility,—the richer and deeper parts of character,—will seek to hear one whose chief charm lies in the expression of such qualities.

Her voice seemed more full and mellow than when we heard her last, and came out with great power and beauty in the duet with Miss Northall. She is still an unfinished singer, and it is obvious to the most uncultivated hearer how much she might improve, if she would devote herself with earnestness to excel, while still in her prime. Still, if she should never go beyond her present marks, she is a singer able to give great pleasure to the ear and some satisfaction to the heart.

The concert was, on the whole, uncommonly good and well arranged, though there were some things we should gladly have dispensed with in an entertainment somewhat too long and crowded, and where the main object with every one was to hear Pico. The atrocious singing of Madame Burkhardt was, however, the only very bad thing. A poor little ballad was cruelly murdered by her, with every sin of whine, of twang, and of clumsy "*graces*." Mad. Otto sang as she always does. Whoever has heard her once may be sure of what he is to find another time; she is not troubled by variations or ebullitions of feeling. Miss Northall acquitted herself in the duet far better than would have been anticipated; it must have been an agitating trial for this young and modest girl, where great improvement within the past year and a half gives room to hope a great deal of good from her future career. "Birds of Spring," a charming little song, she sang well, but not so well as at Mr. Walker's concert, and was not so effectively accompanied. M. Gibert is a pleasing singer—no more. Mr. Mayer should not sing alone; he has not voice enough, though his good taste and judgment make him a valuable support when engaged with others. The duet from Norma roused the hope that we may really hear that opera soon as a whole. Pico is a host in herself; there will be some electricity where she takes a leading part; and two or three other good voices, inspired by her, would make an opera worth hearing. ✱

Constitutional Election.—[Official.]

JEFFERSON CO.

Whigs.	*Loco-Focos.*	*Maj.*
Joseph Mullin.....3716	*A. S. Greene...4029	
Wm. C. Pierrepont.3705	*A. W. Danforth 3950	
Charles E. Clarke..3643	*Elihu McNiel..3981	298

GENESEE CO.

Moses Taggart.....1239	Wm. M. Sprague.818	
Samuel Richmond..1228	Wm. B. Slawson.807	536

National Reform—Cone 385; Willett 383.

SENECA CO.

*Ansel Bascom.....1683	Jehiel H. Halsey.1657	26

ESSEX CO.

*Geo. A. Simmons..1501	Wm. G. Hunter. 903	598

CLINTON CO.

Richard Heyworth. 766	*Lem'l Stetson .1327	561

Abolition.....204

FRANKLIN CO.

John Hutton.....1132	*J. R. Flanders.1174	42

COLUMBIA CO.

*Ambrose L. Jordan.3261	H. Hogeboom ..2980	
*Geo. C. Clyde.....3195	Wm. H. Wilson.2220	973

ST. LAWRENCE CO.

People's Ticket.		
Jehiel Stevens 1006	*Bishop Perkins.2432	
Wm. H. Cleghorn.. 774	*John L. Russell 2348	
	*Jonah Sandford 2136	

WARREN CO.

Hunker.	*Barnburner.*	
*Wm. Hotchkiss ...1482	E. H. Rosekrans 1034	438

* Elected.

☞ THOS. VAN RENSSELAER, long and favorably known as a caterer, has removed his eating-house to the N. W. corner of Nassau and John sts. where he will be happy to greet his old patrons or welcome new. He is a colored man, but we believe even 'Democracy' has not yet denied to his class the privilege of cooking.

From Washington.

Party Trickery Defeated—Course of the Whig Senators on the War Question—Mr. Calhoun—West Point Academy, &c.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, May 12, 1846—Midnight.

We have had a melancholy exhibition of blind partisanship to-day, in the United States Senate—such as is rarely witnessed there. There was little of country and every thing for party to-day. The Loco-Focos wished to defeat the object which we all have at heart, which is to render speedy assistance to our brave soldiers, now placed in jeopardy, needlessly, by the Executive. They had got a bill framed in the House, whence little is expected but the blind fury of a party. They wished to make the form of the bill so odiously partisan, by the preamble, as to drive all decent men to vote against it as a whole, that they might raise the cry against them for refusing to vote supplies to our army.

I cannot help thinking too, that they meant to insult Mr. CALHOUN for having blocked their game on Oregon. But they were signally disappointed. As a proof that they cared not for the honor of the country Mr. CRITTENDEN drove them to the necessity of showing their want of Patriotism by actually voting against granting the necessary supplies. Mr. CRITTENDEN submitted a proposition, and had the yeas and nays called upon it, giving every dollar they asked to repel invasion and carry our arms into Mexico till an honorable Peace was secured. Every Loco-Foco, with the exception of Mr. Calhoun and Mr. McDuffie, voted against it. *Yes*: 25 *Loco-Focos voted against giving the necessary supplies to our army*, and their names are so recorded.

The Whigs could not vote that war existed contrary to the express provisions of the Constitution. The Loco-Focos would not vote even their own proposition without their false and partisan Preamble. The necessities of the country called for a sacrifice of party feelings. The Loco-Focos turned a deaf ear to the request of the country. The Whigs sacrificed party to the demands of the country.—Who are the patriots? Surely not the Loco Focos who would yield nothing; but the Whigs who yielded every thing. Had the Whigs been as stubborn as the Loco Focos, the bill would have been lost. There were but 26 Loco-Focos for the measure. Had those opposed refused to vote, it would have been lost, as it takes 29 to make a quorum.

The country said and our brave army said, we want more men and money to repel invasions and chastise the invaders, even by following them to their own Capital. The Whigs proposed to grant the supplies. The Loco-Focos *refused* to grant them unless by a vote which was to remunerate them in a party sense for the act. The Whigs said they could not be expected to vote such a partisan measure even to furnish the supplies. The country called still louder for both to yield their party measures and vote instant supplies. The Loco Focos stubbornly refused. The Whigs proved themselves worthy of their character and voted the supplies even at a sacrifice of their conscientious scruples. Surely that party who will yield nothing for the country in the hour of danger, are not patriots; and as surely that party who show by their acts that they can and will sacrifice party for country, are patriots.

There is a despicable desire manifested to triumph over CALHOUN to-night. Never has that great man stood so high in my estimation as he does now. He has exhibited more courage to-day than was necessary to fight the battle of New-Orleans, or rival any of Napoleon's boldest deeds. The Loco-Focos say he has buried himself in a political grave. If so, he has had the courage to dig it himself. There is yet a chance for him to triumph. All who admire bravery would rejoice to find that there was actually no war, and that the majority in Congress have made themselves—or rather that nature had furnished them ready made—fools. There is, I repeat, still a chance that the crossing of the Rio Grande was not authorized by Mexico. I trust this may be so. It would be a proud triumph for Mr. CALHOUN. But their boast is, that they have buried CALHOUN. We have not been admirers of Mr. CALHOUN's doctrines. He had raised into something of respectability a base faction, which would drag down to their own low level every thing which they cannot rise to emulate. He had warmed into life a hissing serpent, which, true to its nature, sends poison to the heart of its too generous benefactor. We knew that without him Polk could not be elected, and we knew that those who participated in the disastrous juggle by which he was elected would repent too late; but we did not expect to hear the Polk men prowling over his grave like savages over their scalped victims. They have buried Calhoun! When they have, also, in a common grave, buried the already bleeding Constitution; when they have buried the blighted and withering hopes of a too confiding people; when they have buried everything decent in the country, leaving only themselves, there will be men and nations in other parts of the world who will feel prouder of their race by seeing on its records the name of him whom a base and ungrateful party have despised and trampled on.

Let the hoping disciple of Peace and Civilization still talk of the progress of the human race. But if they would still hope on, let them not bring into their field of vision a Loco-Foco Congressman.—You may have seen wild beasts pant for slaughter and riot in the anticipation of blood, but nothing ever equaled a rabid Loco-Foco's desire for butchery and war. They talked of inevitable war, and used every means to get us into a difficulty with Great Britain. Failing in that, they seem to riot with joy in this. Can that heart be human which seems to take no delight but in the butchery and blood of our fellow-man, born with us to the destiny of Christian civilization. You can have no idea of the savage ferocity of these men. Their hearts this night are leaping with joy in the prospect of blood, almost as intensely as that which animates the Philanthropist and Christian glorying in the sunshine of Peace.

Texas Annexation is coming upon us now in large quantities. Members of Congress are actually boasting here that they would like to take a hand in it, for they see the rich plunder of Catholic Churches, and the defenceless females of Catholic Nunneries, and they are eager to participate in the plunder and carnage and abominations that are to follow an infuriated army through such scenes as these. I have always looked upon this as one object of Annexation. Though appearances seem to argue its fulfillment, I still trust that Providence may place his hand between Loco-Focoism and the victims which it has marked out for the gratification of its unhallowed appetite.

When I closed my last letter this afternoon, the Senate was still engaged in the discussion of the bill passed by the House yesterday. Mr. HUNTINGTON had proposed to strike out the preamble which declares the existence of War. This was discussed by Messrs. MOREHEAD, R. JOHNSON, HUNTINGTON, BERRIEN and ARCHER. The yeas and nays were ordered and resulted—Yeas 18, Nays 28.

The vote on the final passage was taken about half past 6 o'clock, and it passed by a vote of 40 to 2; JOHN DAVIS and THOMAS CLAYTON voting against it, on account of the preamble, though anxious to vote the supplies—the Whigs generally voting for it, with a protest against the preamble—Mr. CALHOUN and two or three others remaining silent in their seats. Had all opposed to the preamble done the same, the bill would have been lost for want of a quorum.

☞ The bill as it finally passed the Senate is substantially the same as you have, ere this, published in the House proceedings of yesterday. The amendments made were to give the appointment of Officers to the Governors of the States, in place of the President, and to make the pay the same as that of the regular soldiers, also making the time of service twelve months or during the war.

We have thus to-day voted ten millions for the Texas fraud. How many souls and how much more money will it cost us before we see it through. There will be a formal protest entered on the journal against the preamble of the bill.

The House was nearly all day occupied with the West Point Military Academy bill. Mr. GIDDINGS continued to make a cutting speech against the Loco-Focos, on Mexico, Texas, &c. on the bill organizing a company of sappers and miners. About 4 o'clock they took a recess till 7½ o'clock, to wait the action of the Senate. At that hour they assembled and passed the bill as it came from the Senate, amended, by a vote, I believe, of 106 to 53, and then adjourned, yelling over the prospect of war, which they consider now declared.

I have just met my old friend Dr. BRIGHAM, of Utica, Principal of the New-York Lunatic Asylum, who informs me that a Convention is now in this city of some 24 representatives of as many Asylums. I have recommended to their Notice the case of the 54° 40' and War men. I shall speak farther of their proceedings hereafter.

I intended to have sent you something rich and racy from the report recently submitted to the Senate by Mr. SEMPLE of Illinois. It is the richest piece of bombast I ever looked into. Other things have crowded too much upon me, but there are flowers in it worth gathering into a nosegay. It is on the Panama Mail question.

I mentioned in my letter of Sunday night that Gen. WORTH had returned to the Rio Grande. He left this city, I believe, on Monday morning.

RICHELIEU.

☞ *The Mirror* is as welcome to our news by Telegraph as the Express is to the Mirror's wit, if it will only keep quiet in the premises. How it can imagine an inconsistency between our giving the earliest and fullest War news and our hostility to War, passes our comprehension.—We dislike Hanging, yet do not thence feel obliged to refrain from all tidings of capital crimes. What makes our evening neighbor so glass-eyed, or cross-eyed, or gimlet-eyed, all at once? Would it have us send our Telegraphic despatches first to the Mirror office?

☞ For a full account of the War Debate in the Senate see Fourth Page.

SPIRIT OF THE ANNIVERSARIES.

MEETINGS TO-DAY.

American Bible Society—Tabernacle 10 A. M.

American Protestant Society—Dr. McElroy's Church, corner Grand and Crosby sts. at half-past 7 P. M. Addresses by Dr. E. Beecher, from two missionaries of the Society who were once Roman Catholic Priests, and from others.

Am. Temp. Union—Tabernacle, half past 7 P. M.

Amer. Education Society—Mercer-st. (Dr. Skinner's) Church half-past 7 P. M. Business meeting half-past 4 P. M. Brick Church Chapel.

American Anti-Slavery Society—Meeting for business and discussion at Society Library.

American and Foreign Bible Society—Dr. Cone's Church, Broome-st. corner of Elizabeth, half past 7 o'clock P. M. Sermon by Rev. Baron Stow of Boston.

☞ Want of room compels us to postpone our reports of the Anniversaries of the American Home Missionary Society and the Christian Alliance.

American Society for Promoting the Abolition of Capital Punishment.

This Society held its Annual Meeting at the Apollo Saloon last evening. The Hall was comfortably filled, and in the absence of the President, Hon. GEO. M. DALLAS, the Chair was taken by Vice-Chancellor McCOUN, one of the Vice Presidents of the Association. The proceedings of the evening were opened with prayer by Rev. F. W. HOLLAND of Rochester; when WM. C. BRYANT, and HORACE GREELEY were chosen Secretaries. FREEMAN HUNT, Esq. Corresponding Secretary, read, among others, the following letters from distinguished gentlemen who had been invited to be present on the occasion:

From Hon. Richard M. Johnson.

WASHINGTON, 5th May, 1846.

Fellow Citizens: Your invitation to me to attend the anniversary meetings of the National and of the New-York State Societies for the Abolition of Capital Punishment, is duly received. My engagements will render it impracticable for me to attend. Under circumstances which would admit of my attendance, it would give me great pleasure to meet you and the many humane citizens who will be in your City on that noble occasion. My heart is with you. It has long been a subject of deep regret to me to see on the statute books of our country the legal sanction for destroying human life, in any case, when the safety of society does not absolutely require it.

The object of human laws is not to mete out strict justice without mercy. Should our Creator so deal with us, who could live upon his earth. The object is to guard society from injury by preventing crime, leaving every man to the judgment of Omnipotence to answer the claims of justice at that dread tribunal. The criminal who deserves death may become penitent and obtain the forgiveness of the Supreme Executive of the Universe, if permitted to live; and if the safety of society does not absolutely require his death, our laws should be so tempered with mercy as to let him live till God himself shall deprive him of being. I am aware that religious objections have been raised, on the ground of God's communication to Noah, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed;" but this sentence I regard as prophetic and not preceptive. The spirit of the Christian religion is consonant with mercy. It is repugnant to the best feelings of humanity, still more so to the spirit of Christianity, to destroy human life when it can be safely preserved; and I have cherished the hope that all the influence of the religious community would be exerted in favor of your object. The only inquiry is, whether the safety of society requires Capital Punishment. The lion and tiger should be enraged, not to punish their ferocity, but to prevent its havoc; so the murderer, the traitor and other criminals should be confined to prevent a repetition of their crimes. If this can be done with safety, and I see no difficulty in doing it, especially in time of peace, they will be harmless to society, and in some instances they may become useful.

Another inquiry arises, what will be the effect of the example of others? The experiment has shown that in all States having the bloodiest code of laws, the greatest numbers of high crimes are committed. In our own country, public executions have never been scenes of dissipation and crime, and this has been so deeply marked that some of the States have wisely provided that executions under the law shall no more be public. They who witness the most indictions of Capital Punishment have the least fear or dread of becoming its victims. To know that an associate in guilt still lives, but lives in a state of degraded bondage within the walls of a prison, from which there is no hope of deliverance, operates as a more continual and salutary warning upon one who is restrained upon no higher principle than that of fear, than to know that he is dead; for the dead are soon forgotten, while the living still live in the recollections of those who have known them.

But it is not my intention in this short letter to go into a full discussion of the subject. I wish only to assure you that I am one with you in sentiment, and sincerely desirous for the success of your undertaking.

For your kind invitation please accept the tender of my grateful acknowledgment.

I have the honor to be your humble servant,

RH. M. JOHNSON.

From Cassius M. Clay.

LEXINGTON, Ky. May 2d, 1846.

Gentlemen: Your kind note of the 27th ult. inviting me to attend the Anniversary Meeting of the National Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment, is duly received. I am gratified that you have remembered me in your association for ameliorating the woes of man.

I regret that distance and other engagements will not allow me the gratification of seeing you personally and hearing what might be said in favor of your cause.

I should be wanting in frankness if I did not confess that I am not prepared to go the full length of your Society. It seems to me that some few crimes ought to be punished with death. It would be out of place here to give my reasons.

On the other hand the experience of mankind has fully proven that a largely bloody code has not been the most effectual to prevent crime; whilst the growing objection to Capital Punishment, and the positive refusal of Juries to inflict it in many instances, warns us that some other remedy ought to be tried.

I feel less reluctance, however, in yielding my unwilling assent to your design, because a fair trial of its efficacy can be made without much injury to society; and should it fail in its purposes, a return to the old system is readily made.

Deeply sympathizing with all sensible efforts for the amelioration of our race, and believing that much yet remains to be done by individuals and Government,

I have the honor to be your well-wisher

And obdt. servt. C. M. CLAY.

From Rev. Theodore Parker.

WEST-ROXBURY, Mass. 2d May, 1846.

Gentlemen: I thank you for the invitation to be with you at your Convention of the Foes of Capital Punishment. I cannot be with you: but my *heart* is with you and your enterprise; now and always. I wonder that the shrewd men have not long ago seen the folly of the present method taken to suppress crime; I wonder that good and religious men have not felt the awful *a priori* objection which it seems to me all generous men feel instinctively against the shedding of blood. I lament the Bigotry which perverts the Christian Religion to the infamous purpose of supporting the Gallows, and makes the men who take the name of Christian Minister so often the staunchest advocates of judicial murder; and I join with you most heartily in your efforts to remove that bigotry. I think we have begun at the wrong end of the work to be done, and besides that have taken hold of the wrong handle of the tools to be used. Criminals are oftener the victims of society than its foes—I mean men *ill-born* or *ill-bred*—often both; placed under circumstances which, with their organization, it was quite impossible for them to resist, they become criminals in spite of themselves.—We know what is Sin—God only, who is the Sinner. It seems to me much of the men we hang are shut up in jails, are criminals by *circumstance*—not by *will*. I don't believe the jail makes them any better. Society is all the time teaching men to steal; the State teaches them to *kill*. These two—the *Social* and the *Political* influences—both in theory and in example, are the two most powerful *educational forces*, which help form the character of the bulmer class of men. We all know which way these forces tend. A third force is found in the *circumstances which gird the man directly and on all sides*. What adequate help has *the poor man* against the bad tendency of all these three? The *School*, the *Church*, the *Press*—alas, all these are nothing to him. It seems to me, a reform in the penal code of all Christian countries is wanted—a deep, radical reform; and it will come in company with many other reforms. If you destroy the Gallows you carry one of the strong outposts of the devil, and encourage many fearful men to hope much for the future.

With my warmest wishes for your success,

I remain, respectfully, your obt't serv't,

THEO. PARKER.

From Charles Sumner, Esq. of Boston.

BOSTON, May 8th, 1846.

Gentlemen: It will not be in my power to attend the meeting of the National Society for the abolition of Capital Punishment on May 13th; but I cannot forbear saying God speed in your humane labors.

Punishment, I suppose, is with a two-fold object—the protection of society, the reformation of the offender. It seems to me clear that, in our age and country, the taking of human life is not *necessary* to the protection of society, while it reduces to a narrow span the period for reformation. I trust that the day is not distant when the law shall no longer desire the death of a sinner, but rather that he shall turn from his ways and live.

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

CHARLES SUMNER.

From Rev. James Freeman Clarke.

BOSTON, May 9th, 1846.

Gentlemen: I am sorry that it is not in my power to attend the New-York Meetings which are to be held next week in opposition to the Gallows. I would gladly have been present to listen to your discussions and to have added my feeble testimony against the law of Blood.

The Gallows rests on two main foundations, the belief that it is our *duty* to hang men, and the belief that it is *necessary* to hang men. If it could be shown that it is not our duty to hang the murderer in order to obey the divine law and that it is not necessary to hang him in order to secure Society, then none could be found to defend capital punishment. But the rule—"*Whoso sheddeth man's blood*," &c. which is the chief reliance of those who maintain that it is a *duty* to hang men, involves the principle of vengeance—a principle abolished in the Gospel, which declares, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." The principle of retaliation, allowed of old in consequence of the hardness of men's hearts, is utterly rejected by the letter and spirit of the Gospel. The times of that ignorance God winked at, but now commands all men, everywhere to repent.

The passage in Genesis to which I have referred can only be adduced in support of the Gallows by the most literal construction. If the letter of the Bible may be interpreted by its spirit, this passage loses all its weight. But if not, if we are bound by a narrow literalism, then the text proves quite too much. Takes literally, it proves that we are to punish not those who commit murder, but those who "shed man's blood"—even though it be done by the physician with his lancet or the dentist with his instrument—even though it be done accidentally or beneficially. He who takes another's life by poisoning him or strangling him cannot be punished by the letter of this law. And what is the punishment to be? Not death by strangling—not necessarily death at all—but shedding of the criminal's blood, to some extent. A drop of his blood would satisfy the letter of the law.

But even if we waive all this as hypercriticism, and assume that the literal meaning of the text is that he who takes man's life must lose his own; if that is a command of God, what right have we to make distinctions between murder in the first and in the second degree? What right have we to give a pardoning or commuting power to the Executive? What right have we to hang men for arson or any other crime than killing? In our State the advocates of Capital Punishment argue thus: "God has said, 'He who sheds man's blood by man shall his blood be shed;' which means, he who kills a man by poison or in any other way, provided it be done wilfully, or who commits rape, or arson, or actual treason, shall be strangled to death without a drop of his blood being shed—provided that the Governor does not pardon him."

Hanging a man from a sense of duty resolves itself into vengeance; hanging him from a belief in its necessity resolves itself into a foolish cowardice. Men think that society cannot be safe except murderers are hung. It is well ascertained that so far as the fear of punishment prevents crime, it is by its certainty, not its severity. Men had rather run the risk of a great evil, than expose themselves to the certainty of a less one. Firemen continually expose themselves to the imminent risk of death in its most horrid form, who would not hold their finger in the fire till it was burnt off. So long as Capital Punishment is our law, all punishment becomes uncertain.

But I have dwelt too long upon familiar thoughts. I trust the time is coming, in which it will be seen that it is not our duty to hang men, nor necessary to do so for our own security. And when that time comes, and the Gallows is abolished, we shall look back upon it with the same horror with which we now regard the auto-de-fé, or the trial by torture; and our children will wonder that such barbarities could have been so long tolerated in Christendom.

With much respect, I am, very truly, yours,

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

Mr. HUNT said that many more letters had been received from friends of the Reform in nearly every State in the Union, all breathing the same spirit, and would doubtless be published; but he would not now occupy the time of the meeting by reading any more of them.

PARKE GODWIN, Esq. offered the following resolutions for the consideration of the meeting.

Resolved, That in the language of the Pennsylvania Statute of 1794, "the design of punishment is to prevent the commission of crimes, and to repair the injury that has been done thereby to society or the individual, that it hath been found by experience that these objects are better attained by moderate and certain penalties, than by severe and excessive punishment, that it is the duty of every government to endeavor to reform rather than to exterminate offenders, and that the punishment of death ought never to be inflicted where it is not absolutely necessary to the public safety."

Resolved, That we are opposed to the infliction of the penalty of death for any crime whatever, because it is exceedingly doubtful in the minds of many good men whether man has a right, under any circumstances, to take the life of his fellow man; because it wants all those marks which the wisest and best modern legislators concur in regarding as the true characteristics of a sound and salutary penalty; because it proceeds upon a wicked principle of retaliation and revenge; because an abundant experience has proved that it does little good, while it does no little harm; because it lends the sanction of law and Government to the very violation of life which it is meant to prevent; because it hardens the sensibilities of the popular mind, and corrupts the popular conscience; and because it is in its very nature opposed to the dictates of humanity, the spirit of the age, and the precepts of the Gospel.

Resolved, That we have time and again demonstrated in our writings and speeches, and hold ourselves ready to demonstrate on all suitable occasions, by the irrefragable testimony of authentic and carefully gathered statistics, that the infliction of the Death Penalty has a tendency to increase the crimes for which it is inflicted, while the substitution of some milder form of punishment has been universally followed by a decrease of those crimes from which the Death Penalty has been removed.

Resolved, That the penalty of death has in numerous instances been abolished, not only without detriment to the public interests, but with the most positive and decided public advantages; and that the experience of Ancient Rome for two hundred years; of Russia for more than half a century; and of Tuscany for nearly twenty-five years, to say nothing of the brilliant experiments in Belgium and East Indies, in all which cases the results were productive of the greatest good, proves incontestably to all sober and unprejudiced minds that it is the duty of enlightened and Christian nations to introduce that change in their laws, which even among barbarous people has led to the most happy and beneficent effects.

Resolved, That we regard it as a vile slander upon the character of the Holy Scriptures to assert that in any part of them now binding upon men, we are commanded to strangle to death criminals of any kind; that there is not a solitary passage in either the Old or New Testament (except in the Jewish Law given for special purposes, and now passed away,) which enjoins so inhuman and barbarous a practice; that in the only instances in which the Almighty or Jesus Christ were called to judge of persons who had been guilty of capital offences they did not put the offenders to death; while, on the other hand, the entire spirit of Christianity and the life of the Saviour in his every act, are utterly and irreconcilably repugnant to the doctrine of Judicial Revenge.

Resolved, That a cause in which the sympathies and talents of such men as Bacon, Blackstone, Beccaria, Howard, Mackintosh, Romilly, Montagu, Elizabeth Fry, Guizot, and Lafayette of Europe, and Jefferson, Franklin, Bradford, Rush, Upham, Channing, Dallas, Bryant and Johnson, of this country, have been enlisted, has nothing to fear from the many and malicious calumnies of our opponents.

Resolved, That we hail with great joy the recent noble act of the Legislature of Michigan, by which that State has declared that henceforth and forever she will be free from the stain of blood guiltiness, and instead of strangling her criminals with a rope will endeavor to convert them into good and reformed Christian men.

[We are obliged, for want of room, to omit the balance of our report of this meeting, including sketches of the Speeches of W. L. Garrison, Rev. John Pierpont, and Charles C. Burleigh; also the list of officers of the Society for the ensuing year.]

American Female Moral Reform Society.

A large audience assembled last evening in the Allen-st. Church, to celebrate the Twelfth Anniversary of this Society, ALVAN STEWART, Esq. Chairman. After prayer by Rev. Mr. Stow, the choir sang a piece of music composed for the occasion. LEWIS TAPPAN, Esq. read the Treasurer's Report, from which we gather that the subscriptions during the past year for the Advocate amount to $4,90. The sales of Tracts, Books, &c. amount to $339.

Mr. Tappan then read the Annual Report. There are now 775 members. The Report stated that 685 adults had applied to the Society for employment during the year—nearly one-third had found places.

Rev. Dr. DOWLING begged to be permitted to congratulate the ladies of the Society on their perseverance in the work of faith and labor. He was more than ever satisfied that the Society was entitled to confidence and resp