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New-York Daily Tribune.

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1857.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous Communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guaranty of his good faith.

Subscribers, in sending us communications, frequently omit to mention the name of the Post-Office, and very frequently the name of the State, to which their paper is to be sent. Always mention the name of the *Post-Office* and *State*.

We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.

Advertisements for THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE of this week should be handed in to-day. Price $1 a line.

We have a fortnight's later news from California by the steamer Illinois, which arrived yesterday morning, with the mails of the 5th inst. and $1,458,000 in gold. The accounts from the mines continue to be favorable, and new discoveries of gold are of common occurrence. Some political excitement has been occasioned by the election of delegates to the Democratic State Convention, the result being favorable to the friends of Mr. Weller.

B. "Are you honest, Cudjo?"
C. "What you give me, Massa?"

A National Convention of the advocates of Compensated Emancipation—that is, of the abolition of Slavery throughout our Union on the basis of charging the cost of such Emancipation on the People of both the Free and the Slave States—is called to meet in Cleveland, Ohio, on the 25th of August. Here is the general

CALL FOR A NATIONAL EMANCIPATION CONVENTION.—The undersigned, belonging to different political parties, being persuaded that it is very desirable that some practical and equitable plan should be brought forward by which the people of the North may cooperate in a generous and brotherly spirit, with the people of the South, and share with them the expense necessary to the extinction of Slavery, would respectfully and earnestly invite those of all parties and sections of the Union who entertain the same opinion to meet in National Convention, personally or by delegation, in the City of Cleveland, Ohio, on the 25th, 26th and 27th of August next—there to discuss and develop some plan of Emancipation which shall fully recognize the principle and policy of a fair and honorable compensation to the slaveholders for the manumission of their slaves.

—In subordination to the above, we notice that a meeting to choose delegates was recently held at Schenectady, and that Dr. Nott, Platt Potter, and other respected and influential citizens, united in the call. We infer that the general call given above will soon appear with a long and strong list of signatures appended. Elihu Burritt, who is the mainspring of this movement, is an earnest, indefatigable worker, with great experience in philanthropic agitation and a perfect knowledge of the means whereby public cooperation is secured. We understand that over a hundred signatures have been obtained in the State of Delaware alone.

We rejoice that this Convention is to be held, and trust it may be numerously attended. Let Slavery, like any other great social wrong, be discussed in every practicable light, and every possible mode and measure of redress be thoroughly considered. We will not say that some measure of National compensation to Slaveholders may not ultimately and wisely, be adopted. Certainly, if the slaveholding class were this day to make the offer—"Give us the Public Lands, and we will abolish "Slavery;" or, "Give us Twenty Millions per "annum for fifty years from the Federal Treasury, "and we will abolish Slavery to-morrow," we should be inclined to answer, "Take the Lands, "or take the money, and let our country be a Re-"public in deed as well as in name;" but, in the absence of any such proffer, we demur to the wisdom and policy of an offer from our side, as we do to the justice of the proposed compensating system, for the following reasons:

I. It seems to ignore the essential error and wrong, the injustice and mischief, of slaveholding. It tends to confirm the slaveholders in the error sedulously inculcated by the Pro-Slavery journals, that Slavery, whatever moral objections may be urged to it, secures great industrial, pecuniary and social advantages to the slaveholding class, as individuals and generally. These are the elemental fallacies whereby Slavery is this day upheld, and we fear and dread to strengthen them. Overwhelm a Pro-Slavery man with facts and arguments showing the necessary injustice and immorality of the slaveholding system, and he turns upon you with the question, "Without Slavery, how shall the "world be supplied with Cotton, Sugar, Coffee "and Tobacco?" Now we meet this question directly, by showing that Slavery cripples and blights the productive capacity of any region it rules, as is clearly evinced by the sparse population and low price of lands in Slave as compared with Free States. We do not, of course, maintain that the identical individuals now growing Sugar and Cotton would produce more of those staples in Freedom than they do in Slavery, any more than the convicts in our State Prisons would make more boots, shoes, files &c., at liberty than they are making at present; but it is overwhelmingly demonstrable that a free-labor community, other things being equal, produces more, improves more, enjoys more, than one whose labor is mainly extorted from slaves. We can prove beyond question that Virginia, or any other Slave State, would be richer, stronger, more populous, more progressive, ten years hence, or fifty years, if she were to abolish Slavery to-morrow, than if she should retain it; but if New-York were to offer Virginia Fifty Millions of Dollars to induce her to give up Slavery, how naturally and plausibly the Slave Press would say, "They would not seek to bribe us to give up "our slaves unless they felt that Slavery gave us "an advantage over them." We know this would be fallacious; but it would be a very plausible fallacy, and would aid to close the eyes and harden the hearts of the slaveholders.

II. In all discussions of grave character and moment, it is well to keep the moral element in the foreground. If Slavery be essentially right, it should be left undisturbed; if wrong, those who have power to abolish it cannot do so a moment too soon. "Seek *first* the kingdom of God and His righteous-"ness, and all these things shall be added unto you," is the Divine rule for all cases involving considerations of right and wrong. If Jonah, in preaching the destruction of Nineveh for her abounding wickedness, had added, "And I am authorized to "offer ten dollars per head to every one of you "who repents forthwith," we don't believe he would have preached to such purpose as he did. A good many sinners would have stopped to higgle for fifteen dollars—or even twenty, perhaps—till the season for repentance had passed.

III. The compensating plan ignores the fact that Slavery has always taxed the Free States, and is taxing them to-day. In Postage, in Public Defense, in the subordination of our industrio-commercial policy to the presumed interests of cotton-growing, in false and degrading notions of the worth and dignity of Labor, leading our youth to seek by any and every means to avoid a life of productive industry, we of the Free States are and long have been burdened and damaged by the Slave system. And, if Slavery were abolished to-morrow, the work of National deliverance from the evils it has wrought would be barely begun. The false notions of Labor it has generated and burnt into our National genius would require ages for their complete eradication. Then, the negroes, so long debased and brutalized by the lash of the overseer, reared in dense ignorance, general unchastity and the notion that Labor is a badge of degradation and an unmitigated curse, would be, for generations, a heavy trial to us all. As we write, our eye rests on this passage from a recent letter of Col. J. Prince, a member of the Canadian Parliament, who, in reply to the resolves of a meeting of the Blacks of Toronto, in which he was accused of having unjustly denounced their people, says:

"It has been my misfortune and the misfortune of my family to live among those Blacks (and they have lived upon us) for twenty four years. I have employed hundreds of them; and, with the exception of one, named Richard Hunter, not one has done for us a week's honest labor. I have taken them into my service, have fed and clothed them year after year on their arrival from the States; and in return have generally found them rogues, and thiever, and a graceless, worthless, thriftless, lying set of vagabonds. This is my very plain and very simple description of the darkies as a body, and it would be indorsed by all the Western white men, with very few exceptions."

Of course, this is strongly put—we think more strongly than the facts will warrant—and it will not apply to those who seek to live by agriculture so fully as it will to those who crowd into cities like Toronto—but its basis of truth must be recognized by the candid. We know honest, worthy, industrious negroes; but the negroes of New-York have many points of resemblance to Col. Prince's description of their Canada brethren. Colored people are favorites here as servants, and, if qualified and diligent, can command better wages than whites; yet we are confident that there are more Blacks to-day in New-York who seek to live by harlotry, selling liquor, and other modes of pandering to other's vices, than by downright, useful labor. And this deplorable state of things proves, not that the Blacks are essentially worse than other people, but that they have, as a race, been educated in the very worst school to be found on this continent. The road from slavery of soul and body to true freedom is not merely a difficult, but a long one. Ages of better treatment than the Blacks have ever yet received, either in New-York or New-England, will be required to raise them to the platform of a true manhood. They have many good elements—they are docile and imitative—and, if they could only be treated humanely and considerately, they might improve much faster than they do; still, in view of the indignities constantly and wantonly heaped upon them, they are doing as well as could be expected. Those among them who *are* honest, thrifty, self-respecting, deserve far more credit than Whites, even in the humblest condition, who evince like qualities; since they have overcome far stronger influences tending toward debasement and knavery. But emancipated slaves, or the children of such, are not a desirable class of neighbors or fellow-citizens; and the overthrow of Slavery in the South must largely increase the northward movement of Blacks. "Let justice be done, "though the heavens fall;" let every man be free, though we know that many will (as many do and always did) abuse their freedom; but we protest against the assumption involved in the compensating plan that the burdens of Emancipation are to be borne by the South, while its benefits enure to the North. We firmly believe that, while Emancipation, like any radical and pervading change in social or political relations, must involve many individual hardships, and a temporary general disruption between Capital and Labor in slaveholding communities, yet its good effects would be instantly and beneficially felt throughout the South, in the influx of an intelligent and efficient Laboring Class, and the general appreciation of real property, while its burdens would be fairly shared by the North. Why, then, should the North pay the South for freeing its slaves?

We have the greatest regard for the American Eagle. Whether we consider him ornithologically, metaphorically, oratorically, heraldically, poetically or numismatically, that "fierce gray bird, with a bending beak," is, in our opinion, to speak colloquially, "one of the birds." We like to recognize him everywhere—upon his native cliff, upon the flag of our country, and upon the coin of this Democratic realm. He is respectable even upon the new cent, where he appears like a dying quail; he is royal upon the golden coin to which he gives his name; he is imperial upon those pieces having the strength of XX. Thus considering all other birds to be mere titmice and sparrows in comparison with the Bird of our Country, it affords us the purest patriotic pleasure to behold him upon all occasions, spread to the utmost latitude and longitude, and measuring from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other, from the beak to the claws, the greatest possible number of feet. When thus trussed, as if for broiling, we see in him an emblem which Quarles might have envied, not only of the spread of our beloved country, but of the broils in which we must be engaged before we can spread to a tolerable extent. Especially are we pleased to notice the dilation of our beloved bird in Great Britain. In that island, whenever he can contrive to roost there, it is particularly his duty to swell. We despise a lion. We know that all lions are cowards, and that their natural way of carrying their tails is between their legs. We know that every pin-feather and tail-feather of our eagle carries dismay to the leonine heart. We have with childish glee seen the craven beast stirred up by the keeper of a menagerie pole in hand—how much more delightful to behold him in the land of his adoption, flouted to his very mane by our own native fowl!

We have been betrayed into these natural and national reflections by noticing that at the dinner of American merchants in Liverpool upon the last blessed Fourth of July that ever was, a gentleman by the name of Train—he ought hereafter to be called Lightning Train—brought out our bird and put him through his flights in a way which justly entitles the exhibitor to be called the Van Amburgh of eagles. At that banquet we were in a bad way for a little while. Prof. Morse, Mr. Dallas, Mr. Hawthorne, and other well-known Americans, had sent their regrets and their toasts—some dry and some buttered—in envelopes. Captain Hudson of the Niagara was present, but that gentleman, albeit an incarnate man-of-war, declined to fire a broadside, and contented himself with making a modest speech. Our eagle was actually beginning to moult, but when the toast "Our Country" was given, Mr. Train of Boston was instantly upon his legs, and was after that lion in the twinkling of an eye. In a second the quadruped was floored. Talk about bearding! Why, that animal was down to the degree that he will never get up again. The lions in Daniel's den must have been in low spirits when they found themselves hungry, instead of having a prophet for supper as they had expected; but we can tell the reader that those lions were as light-hearted as children at play, in comparison with their British brother upon the Fourth of July in Liverpool. Shall we give specimens of the incantations which finished the monster?

Mr. Train began by saying that "our country "had stamped her own eulogy on every tree and "shrub and river throughout our broad domain." This posed the lion at once. He had done a little stamping himself, but he had never stamped "his own eulogy" on a shrub or river. Mr. Train said that his powers of speech had been overrated. Here the lion took courage, and showed signs of life. "But," said our champion, "our country "expects every man to do his duty." (Second knock-down for Columbia.) Hereafter our knight-errant had it all his own way, and if he did revel a little in rich imaginations and become intoxicated upon the fancies of which he was so exhaustless a fountain, who can censure him? For instance, the coldly critical might ask what he meant by saying: "How the blood rushes through our veins "as we listen to *the star-spangled* music of uni-"versal unity!" We should like to ask whose blood would not rush through his veins when he heard "star-spangled music"?

We have space only for a single extract from this noble speech. Mr. Train, who is the very Wandering Jew of patriots, thus let the lion know that he had in his time seen a thing or two:

"Mr. Chairman, whether looking at the crater down deep in the bowels of Vesuvius, or gazing on the Roman world from the dome of St. Peters—bathing in the river Jordan, or culling flowers in the garden of Gethsemane—using the pickaxe two hundred feet below the earth's surface on the Balaarat—contemplating the delta and the desert five hundred feet above from the pyramid of Ghizeh—standing in company with an emu and a kangaroo on the shores of Botany Bay, or roaming over the ground trod by Sir John Franklin in Tasmania—worshiping nature in the primeval forest at Burtenzorg, in Java, where the tomb of Lady Raffles reminds me that England once possessed the Garden of Eden, or surrounded by Ladrone pirates at the mouth of the Yank-tse-kiang as the typhoon swept us toward the shore—talking silks and teas with the merchant princes of Canton, or cormorant fishing at Foo-chow-foo—wandering over the Mount of Olives—standing on the Leaning Tower at Pisa, or walking on the Hoogly's banks as the Sepoy army received Lord Canning—listening to Louis Napoleon as he talked of American railways and his New-York life at the Tuileries, or hearing the deafening cheers that rang along the lines when the boy-Emperor of Austria rode through the ranks on the anniversary of the birthday of Maria Theresa—a pageant that occurs but once in a hundred years: no matter where the tide of fortune takes me—and I have seen all lands, and heard all tongues in my one hundred and fifty thousand miles of rambling—'our country' stands out in bold relief, the fairest land in Christendom. Asia has heard of our prosperity—Africa reads our history—Europe opens wide her eyes—Russia is proud of our friendship—Austria respects us—France sees our giant growth—England trembles for her commerce—all the world wonders."

—Dr. Johnson resolutely declared that "no man learned anything by traveling." "What did Lord "Charlemont," he roared, "learn in his travels, "except that there was a snake in one of the "pyramids of Egypt?" Mr. Train is more fortunate than Lord Charlemont. After "talking silks "and teas with the merchant princes of Canton," and "standing in company with an emu and a "kangaroo on the shores of Botany Bay," he has learned that "'our country' stands out in bold relief." It is certainly a great relief for us to know the fact; but how it must have exasperated the poor lion! No wonder that Mr. Train at once proceeded "to *lay* his burning tears upon the graves of "towering American minds." We intended to refrain from further extracts, but for the sake of the dear old eagle the reader will pardon the following:

"Our eagle stoops to no small flight—the king of birds, as our country is the first of nations. Stand back, old mother land—think of the cotton and the corn—look at our commerce—remember our history—and in these days of doubt and dread that hang over Europe and your Indian Empire, don't forget that America is your truest friend, where blood and kindred, laws and religion, bind us by an annual contract of one hundred millions sterling to keep the peace."

This might not have been a pleasant thing for an Englishman to listen to or to read the next morning: but the lion being down it was necessary to keep him down. "We must be cracked up," said Mr. Chollop, in Martin Chuzzlewit. That excellent American was right. Mr. Train had evidently the nerve to do his duty. He expressly declared that he was for his country "right or wrong," and so he wound up with the following, which in sublimity beats Milton or Handel's Hailtsorm Chorus:

"Let our voices ring round the world—past Cape Clear, past the Banks of Newfoundland, rolling on to our Atlantic border, till the trapper catches the sound on the Rocky Mountains and whirls it scornfully past Brigham Young and his nest of vipers, to the gem of the Pacific—California—and still onward on that broad ocean, where another golden land has caught the fire, and where 10,000 Americans in Australia commemorate that anniversary, the celebration of which I introduced there four years ago, and where they echo back the glorious words 'Union!—Liberty!' [Applause]."

"Three cheers and a gun!" Really after this there is nothing for us to say. There are no words in our repertory fine enough to do justice to the subject. We can only modestly whistle, "Hail, Columbia!" and leave the reader to his emotions.

A recently published letter of Gen. Wool's, in relation to his military command in the Department of the Pacific, and the orders which he received from the War Department in that capacity, affords documentary evidence, under the hand of Jefferson Davis himself, that while Cushing and Marcy, and even Davis himself, were busy in preaching up the enforcement of the neutrality laws, Davis was permitted by the imbecile Pierce to make himself just as busy in defeating their enforcement.

General Wool, on setting out for his command, took with him the following instructions:

"WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 1854.

"SIR: In addition to the ordinary duties of the military command to which you have been assigned, it is deemed proper to direct your attention to certain special duties which will devolve on you.

"Among those will be the duty of maintaining our international obligations by preventing unlawful expeditions against the territories of foreign powers. Confidence is felt that you will, to the utmost of your ability, use all proper means to detect the fitting out of armed expeditions against countries with which the United States are at peace, and will zealously cooperate with the civil authorities in maintaining the neutrality law."

And six days after the date of these instructions, the President issued a proclamation relating particularly to unlawful expeditions against Mexico (in one of which William Walker was about that time engaged), directing "all officers of the Govern-"ment, civil and military, to use any efforts which "may be in their power to arrest for trial and pun-"ishment every such offender." Upon the strength of these instructions and this proclamation, Gen. Wool on his arrival in California caused the arrest and conviction of certain parties employed in enlisting recruits for Walker, who was then in Lower California, of which he had taken possession, and proclaimed himself President; and in consequence of this disappointment in the failure of his supplies Walker was driven out of the Mexican territory.

But instead of any commendation for thus acting up to the letter of his instructions, General Wool received from Mr. Secretary Davis the following rebuke:

"WAR DEPARTMENT,
"WASHINGTON, 14th April, 1854.

"SIR: * * * Your remarks in relation to unlawful expeditions sailing from the coast of California suggest the propriety of referring you to your instructions upon the subject. It was not *expected or desired that the military commander should do more than belongs to the ordinary relations of the civil and military power*; and, in instructing you to aid the civil authorities, it was not intended that you should originate arrests and prosecutions for *civil misdemeanors*. You will readily perceive that consequences injurious to the public service would probably follow from such interference by the military with the functions of civil officers."

Shortly after the arrival in California of this extraordinary letter, Walker, who, meanwhile, had been tried for his Mexican expedition and acquitted—possibly on the strength of some other similar letter from Washington—and being then in contemplation of his Nicaraguan foray, waited on Gen. Wool for the purpose, as he stated, of satisfying the General that he (Walker) was not engaged in any filibustering or unlawful scheme; to which Gen. Wool replied that if Walker were engaged in any such scheme, he (Wool), under recent orders from Washington, had no authority to interfere with him, at least not till called upon by the civil authorities. But for the above letter of Davis, Walker would have been stopped by Wool, and his whole wretched enterprise have been nipped in the bud.

There seems to be considerable doubt, in quarters likely to be best informed upon the subject, whether in the struggle now going on between the merchants and ship-owners on the one side, and the sailor boarding-house keepers on the other, the employers of the sailors, or those whose business it is to plunder them not merely of what they have earned, but of what they expect to earn, will carry the day. The matter has been taken up on the part of the merchants with a great deal of spirit and unanimity; and as the gross and intolerable evils arising out of the old system have been by no means limited to this port, but have been felt in all the shipping ports of the country, so the merchants and ship-owners in all our principal maritime towns have given their hearty approval to the plan of reform proposed here, and have promised their concurrence in it. Nor has this view of the matter been confined to the merchants and ship-owners. All the respectable sailor boarding-house keepers and shippers of men, well satisfied that whatever redounds to the benefit of the sailors will ultimately benefit themselves, have come heartily into the new arrangement for shipping men without the payment of advance wages. But, of course, this movement for the emancipation and elevation of the sailors encounters a violent opposition. The persons accustomed to sell the sailors like slaves, and to pass off upon the ship-owners anything and anybody as a sailor, are bitterly opposed to this change, by which they are threatened with not merely the loss of their blood-sucker's gripe on the sailors, but on the ship-owners as well. It is no doubt in the power of these persons, by playing on the fears and ignorance of the sailors, and by employing for that purpose the too numerous class of seamen already thoroughly corrupt, to put some obstacles and difficulties in the way of this change, and to subject ship-owners to considerable delays and trouble in completing their crews. But of course no change of this sort, involving pecuniary interests, and interfering with the gains of unprincipled men, can be expected to be carried through without some struggle and some sacrifice. In a matter of this sort, involving not merely their sense of duty toward those whom they employ in their business, but the safe and successful conduct of that business, and the reputation of the American marine in foreign ports, we trust that, after having so publicly and peremptorily pledged themselves to the change, our merchants are not going to allow themselves to be defeated and put to open shame by succumbing to such antagonists.

There is, besides, this point to be considered. Though the merchants and ship-owners might be willing, for the sake of avoiding a little trouble and inconvenience to themselves, to knock under to the land-sharks, and to surrender up the sailors once more to be devoured by them, they may be sure that this is a piece of pusillanimity in which the public will not concur. Public attention has been thoroughly drawn to this subject. It has been made perfectly clear that the present system is barbarizing both sailors and officers, and not only that, but is threatening with speedy downfall the high position which we occupy in the maritime world. If the merchants fail in the attempt they have made, they may be sure the matter will be taken in hand by legislators, both State and national. Now it were much better for the convenience of merchants and the interests of all parties that this matter should be arranged on the basis of mutual agreement, than that resort should be had to legislative interference. Law is often an awkward and always a costly mediator, however necessary in certain cases it may be. In the enforcement by legal means of an imperative and necessary reform, the merchants might find themselves inevitably subjected to annoyances and expenses vastly more serious than any which sailor landlords have it in their power to inflict.

The trial of Miss Madeline Smith at Glasgow for poisoning, the most prominent details of which we have published, adds another to the long catalogue of peculiar cases, the contributions to which in our time have already been sufficiently numerous. Poisoning has hardly been in such high fashion as now since the days of the Brinvilliers; and if things are to go on at this rate much longer, every man of us must become a Mithridates upon his own account, and take an antidote or two before venturing upon his meals. We believe that to Mr. William Palmer must be ascribed the honor of reviving the public taste for this fine art. Although his experiments were quite as fatal to himself as to his friends, and although it is perfectly evident that too practical a knowledge of chemistry may lead to the gallows, yet Mr. Palmer, if we may credit the newspapers, left behind him a considerable number of disciples both in England and America. It having been found with how much facility people who are in the way in this world may be put out of the way by sending them to another, and there being a temptation also in the apparent protection which Palmer's system of small doses affords against detection, there can be no doubt that those who are of homicidal propensities will for some time prefer arsenic and strychnine to the bludgeon and the dagger. There is something contagious in an unusual and terrible crime. The memory of it, to certain constitutions, is in the highest degree fascinating. It fastens itself upon the morbid mind, and finally, by provoking a strange and indefinable curiosity, destroys all moral power, and leaves the intellect at the mercy of a fierce and uncontrollable will. This spirit of imitation sometimes sends a suicidal and sometimes a homicidal epidemic throughout the country. Just now we believe that there are more persons imprisoned in this country, charged with poisoning, than at any former period.

But these peculiar excitements may, and often do, lead to the most painful social delusion and injustice. It used to be a standing rule among the vulgar that every king who died suddenly had been poisoned by his courtiers. This was a comparatively harmless error. But if people will persist in believing that every person who is not, as Charles II. said, "an unconscionable time dying," has been helped upon his way by arsenic in his broth, our social relations will become more exciting than comfortable. Suppose that in some one of the rural districts a man has been living upon bad terms with his wife. One fatal night he eats a supper which would have baffled the digestive powers of the ostrich, and goes to bed. He awakes in pain; he passes through the various stages of the cholera and dies. Perhaps no medical man has seen him; perhaps no one has been with him but the wife. Then the gossips, fresh from reading the trial of Palmer, begin to shake their heads. Soon the whole village rings with surmise. The man has been buried. They dig him up. The Coroner makes his appearance with his band of sages. A dozen doctors hold high debate over his stomach. Six of them find arsenic and six of them the remains of clams or cucumbers. Finally, it is probable the arsenical gentlemen give in; the skeptics triumph, and the remains of the poor man are carried back to the sepulchre. But mark our words! If there be in that village a husband weary of his wife, or a wife weary of her husband, the noodles have put strange thoughts into the heads of the harassed or the henpecked, and a case of real poisoning would not by any means be remarkable.

We do not propose to discuss at large the case of Miss Smith. The Jury found that the charges were "not proven," but declined to render a verdict of "not guilty," which they might, under the Scottish law, have done. A few points of the case, however, are worth noticing. This young woman returned from a finishing London boarding-school to Glasgow, in 1855, at the age of 17. Two things she seemed to have learned in this manufactory of misses—the art of writing love-letters of torrid pungency and the art of using arsenic as a cosmetic. This was, indeed, an opulent stock of information with which to start upon "woman's mission." For our own part, we must confess that we have never before read anything like these letters of Miss Smith to L'Angelier. In the copies which we have seen the worst has been expurgated, but what remains is in all conscience bad enough. Those of our readers who are fresh from "The Professor" will remember two or three Belgian school girls, whose portraits are painted with almost the finest force of Charlotte Bronté, and it seems to us that these letters might have been written by either of those promising young women. They are not merely coarsely sensual, but they seem to us to overshoot the mark, and to be artificially and feignedly so. They are so extravagant and absurd that we were at first inclined to consider them quite compatible with that innocence which the world regards as the most important, but the admissions of the prisoner's advocate forbid us to think so.

How far has this practice of using arsenic extended among our women? Perhaps our apothecaries can throw some light upon the subject. Arsenic is certainly rather a dangerous article to keep upon the dressing-table. What are its effects cosmetically or internally? We cannot suppose them to be otherwise than noxious, but perhaps we are mistaken. Let us know how many beauties we have who owe their attractions to ratsbane.

The case of Speirs, the man charged with having set fire on the 14th inst. to the central building, and on the 19th to the stables of the New-York State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, is a pretty strong one to show that in cases of insanity, whatever value we may choose to put upon the conclusions of physicians based on certain facts, their own personal observation of facts and conclusions thereon are not, upon the question of mad or not, to be very implicitly relied upon.

This man Speirs, it seems, had been tried in this city, in January, 1850, for the crime of arson. Of this offense he had been acquitted on the ground of insanity, but had been ordered by the Court to be sent to the State Asylum at Utica, where he remained till February, 1856, when he was discharged "cured," as the physicians of the hospital supposed. He did not, however, leave the institution, except for a short time in September last, but remained there employed in various capacities, and seeming to the doctors, all the while, a sane man. Yet upon some little offense he took the first opportunity to set the buildings on fire; nor is there much reason to doubt that this was an act of insanity; nor that the man, instead of being discharged "cured," ought to have been in the hospital—not as an employee, but as a patient.

In such a case as this, one in which the madness was shown to have been of a character likely to take on a mischievous development, one in which the patient had been originally committed by a criminal court, and in which he had been mad for upward of seven years—for the first arson was committed more than a year before he was sent to the Asylum—it appears to us that great caution ought to have been used in discharging such a patient as "cured," merely on the ground that he was industrious, careful and thoughtful, and gave no evidence of excitability. All this was perfectly consistent with a madness of which the external development principally is a disposition, on slight provocation, to set buildings on fire. Such a patient, committed by order of court, ought not, we think, to be discharged without being first put to some tests for the express purpose of trying whether he were really cured or not. If, with this object in view, Spiers had been placed in a position which afforded him a good opportunity to indulge his insane propensity to set buildings on fire, and had been supplied with some little stimulus to its exercise, we are induced to think that the fact that he was not "cured," but still insane, might have been established at cost much less than that actually incurred.

We yesterday received two new and good Republican journals—*The California Free Press* (San Francisco; Joseph Weed & Co.), and *The Prairie du Chien Leader* (Wisconsin; Hill & Green). We seldom obey a "Please Exchange" with more alacrity than in these cases, especially the former. Each paper contains the official call of a Republican State Convention to nominate for the Fall Election. *The Free Press* presents as its creed the Republican Platform adopted at the National Convention which nominated Fremont and Dayton. It gives the following list of persons from among whom the first Republican candidate for Governor of California will probably be selected:

"Ira P. Rankin, O. L. Shafter, Thomas Gray, F. M. Haight, and Col. E. D. Baker of San Francisco, E. B. Crocker of Sacramento, J. N. Turner of Nevada, and Judge Heister of Alameda."

We believe a brighter day is dawning for the Republicans of California. Hitherto, the Anti-Slavery sentiment of that young State has been stifled by the influence of two antagonist "National" parties, whose leaders were a unit in support of Slavery. That time has passed away, and a Free-Soil party is at length fairly before the People and has a local organ through which it will be heard. The prostration of Broderick and the half-way Free-State Democracy will drive many voters over to the Republicans. Slavery in the National councils will not always count the Delegation from California among its most loyal servitors.

Should the case of the Panchita reach a trial, there seems some probability of learning the part which our Government takes in suppressing the slave-trade upon the coast of Africa. The British officers, against whom suit is brought for the damages alleged to have been sustained by the seizure of the Panchita, appear to rely in defense, in some measure, upon the fact that there was no American vessels-of-war to be found, if we may judge from the following extract from Lieut. Odevaine's affidavit:

"That deponent then was given to understand that she (the Panchita) had been overhauled by the said Captain Moresby, who, from the suspicious circumstances about her, deemed such overhauling necessary on the belief that she was engaged in the slave trade; that, as deponent understands and believes, this was done not only from such circumstances, but from the fact of a total absence of anything like an American naval authority or vessel. And this deponent says that although he has been in the said Commodore's ship for *about twelve months, cruising on the coast of Africa, he never met with or saw an American vessel-of-war or its flag.*"

How does this happen? Have we no cruisers on that coast?

OREGON is convulsed by a Slavery agitation, in spite of her high northern latitude. Briefly—the "National Democracy" is fully in power therein, and is, there as everywhere, a Pro-Slavery party. It has just chosen a Convention to frame a State Constitution, and that Convention is about as strongly Pro-Slavery as Democratic. Little doubt remains that the Convention will frame a clause making Oregon a Slave State, and submit it separately to the People. By them, however, it will pretty surely be voted down—all the Republicans and a minority of the Democrats voting against it. The Democratic leaders will, however, have accomplished one of their main objects—they will have commended themselves to the favor of the ruling power at Washington as eminently conservative and "National," and they will probably secure some fat offices as the reward of their zealous though unsuccessful efforts.

Henry Dixon, a negro, who had lived in freedom at Rochester was recently sold into Slavery in Alabama, to a kind master with whom he chooses to remain, though his old neighbors and friends raised the money to pay for him. We trust Henry will be permitted freely to abide in Slavery; and we wish the Southrons could be provoked to equal liberality with regard to the thousands who have fled and the millions who would gladly flee from Slavery into Freedom. Let us have an agreement between the North and the South, that every negro who wishes to exchange from freedom to Slavery,