

Let them not rail, ridicule, declaim or denounce. But with humility, sincerity, and manly honesty let them reason. If they can prove that political power is not *per se* necessarily evil (which we are willing to admit,) let them go farther, and prove, (what we deny) that as it now is, and is available to moral reforms in this country, its exercise is compatible with Christian principles, or likely to promote any good moral enterprise of the age. Let them proceed a step further still, and show if they can, that it is the mission, or any part of the mission of our reformers, to descend from the use of moral instrumentalities to those of political. We say, "let the dead bury their dead." Let those who are called to testify against the iniquities of the land, and to regenerate its corrupt public sentiment, adhere closely to their work, and be careful never to endorse politically the very errors, falsehoods, and vices which they morally rebuke. And may the Infinite Father, the exhaustless source of moral power, pervade the wide world with its redeeming influence, till the majesty of its excellence shall subdue the nations, and one universal chorus salute the skies.

"Glorious to God in the highest! on earth peace, good will to men."

As heaven's vast orb transcends the sickly moon,
And pours through all the sky eternal noon;
So glows the Moral sun with rays divine,
And rules the wide spread firmament of mind,
And rules the opaque satellites of State
With all the scepter'd majesty of Fate.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE Ohio American Anti-Slavery Society.

The meeting was opened by the reading a portion of Scripture; after which prayer was offered by the President.

None of the Vice Presidents being present, Jacob Jaaney, Samuel McCormick, George Garretson, Jacob Heaton and Mahlon Wileman were appointed to fill the vacancies.

James C. Marshall and Wm. C. Alexander were appointed assistant Secretaries.

A Business Committee, consisting of sixteen persons, was appointed by the chair, viz:

Aquila Harford, Giles Stebbins, Jos. Garretson, Rebecca A. Dixon, Elizabeth Wileman, Rebecca L. Thomas, Jesse Holmes, Lot Holmes, John D. Young, David L. Galbreath, Etiza Holmes, Jesse Garretson, Oliver Griffith, Joseph Cope and Ruth Cope.

The chair appointed the following persons as a committee to nominate officers for the Society the ensuing year: Wm. B. Irish, K. G. Thomas, Jesse Garretson, Elizabeth Robinson, and Rebecca Holmes.

The following named persons were also appointed by the chair as a Financial committee, viz: Lot Holmes, Rebecca A. Dixon, Ruth Cope, J. K. Snodgrass, K. G. Thomas and Caroline Stanton.

The Declaration of Sentiments and Constitution of the American Anti Slavery Society, were read by the corresponding secretary.

It was resolved, on motion, that all persons present, who are friendly to the anti-slavery cause, be invited to participate in the deliberations and discussions of the convention.

There being no business before the convention, Abby Kelley addressed the meeting on the general aspects of the anti-slavery cause, after which the session concluded.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention met, President in the chair.
B. B. Davis offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the situation of Burr and Thompson in the penitentiary of Missouri, and of Chas. T. Torrey in the Baltimore prison, as well as other victims of diabolical laws, demands the deepest sympathy of every friend of humanity.

Giles Stebbins on behalf of the business committee, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the members of the convention of 1787 who framed the Constitution of the U. States, and the people of the several States who adopted it, showed by their willingness to grant the slave interest the three-fifth representation, and thus increase the influence of men stealers and slaveholders in proportion to the number of their slaves—their consent to forbid Congress to exercise its authority for twenty long years to prohibit the African slave trade—their allowing the whole land to be made a hunting ground for the hunters of men, in order as James Madison said "to give the slaveholder better security in his property," and their pledging the whole physical force of the nation to keep the slave in his chains—that they were base hypocrites in their pretensions to love of liberty, and belief in the inalienable rights of man; and that a constitution, granting such "solemn guaranties," as Daniel Webster calls them, to slavery, is indeed "a covenant with death, and an agreement with hell," which no true friend of humanity can in any way sanction or uphold either by holding an office under it himself, or casting a vote for another to do so.

The resolution was advocated by Giles Stebbins and Abby Kelly, and opposed by Mr. Keep and Jacob Heaton.

The committee on nominations reported the following list of officers for the ensuing year which was adopted.

President—Cyrus McNeely.
Vice Presidents—George Garretson, Lot Holmes, Wm. B. Irish, Lewis Morgan and Edward Brooke.
Cor. Sec'y—K. G. Thomas.

Recording Secretaries—James Barnaby, Jr. and James C. Marshall.

Executive Committee—Elizabeth Wileman, Lydia Irish, Pierce Garretson, Rebecca S. Thomas, Oliver Griffith, James Barnaby, Jr., Joseph Garretson, Daniel Bonsall, Elizabeth Garretson, Abraham Wileman.

The session concluded.

June 6.—The meeting was called to order, and a chapter from the Bible read by the president.

It was inquired whether all persons present have a right to vote in the convention.

The chair decided that all persons present who agreed in sentiment with the constitution of the American Anti Slavery Society were entitled to a vote.

The resolution of last session then came up for discussion.

Abby Kelly, believing that the decision of the chair relative to the right of voting, was misunderstood by many persons present, appealed from that decision, in order that the question might be more fully discussed, and the resolution before the meeting was on motion, laid on the table for ten minutes.

A motion was made to appoint a committee to take a roll of the members of the Society. Remarks were made by Jesse Holmes, Elizabeth Robinson and Abby Kelly, when, the ten minutes having expired, the resolution again came before the meeting.

On motion, the resolution was again laid upon the table, until the question of membership should be decided. A committee of four was appointed by the chair, to enrol the names of those who are, or wish to become, members of this Society, viz: J. Holmes, Jesse Garretson, Lot Holmes, Wm. McClain. The constitution of the Society was then read, and the roll made out.

The discussion of the resolution was then resumed. Mr. Keep spoke at considerable length in opposition to the sentiments of the resolution; and was followed by Abby Kelly, who spoke in its defence until the time of adjournment.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The meeting convened, President in the chair.

The discussion of the resolution before the convention proceeded, Abby Kelly speaking at considerable length in its defence.

B. B. Davis offered an amendment to the resolution.

A motion was made to lay the whole subject on the table, which was lost.

A vote was then taken, on the amendment, which was also lost, and the question recurred on the original resolution. The time of adjournment having come, it was voted that the session continue one hour longer than usual.

The resolution before the convention was, on motion, laid upon the table, and the subject of funds taken up; Abby Kelly made an appeal to the friends of the slave, soliciting pecuniary aid for the Society. A collection was then taken, and pledges made to the Society, amounting in all to about \$215.00.

June 7.—Convention met at the usual hour, the President being absent Geo. Garretson called the meeting to order.

Jesse Holmes read the following from the President, Cyrus McNeely.

"The chair under the impression that the society had elected him as their president, at the present anniversary, without knowing his position in relation to the 'Liberty party,' begs leave to tender his resignation together with his thanks for your confidence. He wishes it to be distinctly understood, that, for himself, he sees no incongruity whatever, in an advocate of the liberty party acting as President of a Society, which adopts the constitution of the American Anti-Slavery Society as its bond of union; and, should the Society see fit to elect him under such a condition, he shall be happy to act."

He wishes to say, likewise, that he regards the present position of the A. A. S. S. on the subject of voting, as bearing precisely the same relation to her constitution that the position of the new organizationists in 1839 on the question of not voting, does to that instrument."

The above resignation was accepted by the Society; and on motion of Jesse Holmes, Cyrus McNeely was re-elected President of the Society for the ensuing year.

The following resolution offered by Samuel Myers, was after considerable discussion adopted.

Resolved, That the case of Samuel Jackson, a colored man now in this place, who has lost one of his legs and is otherwise imbecile, but who it is understood, has been denied the advantage of our poor laws, on the ground of a non compliance with that statute of our State requiring of colored men, security bonds on entering the State, calls for the aid and sympathies of the people.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed to investigate the laws which oppress the colored people of the State of Ohio, and report to the next meeting of this society. The chair appointed Wm. D. Ewing, Mahlon Erwin, and Jesse Holmes, to constitute the above committee.

The report of the business committee was then read and accepted, viz:

Resolved, That in our efforts to hasten the time when "Liberty shall be proclaimed throughout all the land to all the inhabitants thereof," we will rely upon the omnipotent power of truth, as above every other agency, to modify and radically change the pro-slavery sentiment which now upholds the institution; and make all parties and ecclesiastical organizations bow to the voice of an enlightened people.

Resolved, That since slavery in this country is sustained and perpetuated by a corrupt degraded public sentiment, and can only be abolished by the moral power of truth, urged with a firm uncompromising spirit upon the minds and hearts of the people—and since the formation of a distinct political party based upon one idea, that shall become sufficiently numerous to sway the political action of the nation, and yet retain the unity and firm basis of moral principle necessary to bring about a great moral change, which only can abolish slavery, is in the very nature of things impossible—therefore our motto should be, in the very words of a circular signed by James G. Birney in 1838, "to form an alliance with no political party but to enstamp our principles upon all."

Resolved, That those who refuse to vote for men who belong to the great political parties, because they consider them unworthy of confidence or support as politicians, and yet admit them to the communion table, and remain in communion themselves with churches that fellowship slaveholders and their abettors, as do many members of the "Liberty party," set up a higher standard in politics than in religion and to shield the horrid corruptions in the church.

Resolved, That the Federal Union based on the United States Constitution, is the great bulwark of slavery, involving the North equally with the South in the guilt of slaveholding; and that it is the duty of every true friend to humanity, to give it no sanction or allegiance; but, adopting the motto of "no union with slaveholders," to use every effort to bring

about a peaceful dissolution of a union which is cemented with the blood of the slave.

Whereas, in view of the great influence of the church and clergy in this country, they may justly be called "the power behind the throne greater than the throne itself," shaping more than any thing else, public opinion and public action to their own standard of right, be that standard high or low; therefore

Resolved, That so long as the great majority of the churches of the land are in fellowship with slaveholders and their abettors, and the clergy and northern D. D.'s are apologists for, and defenders of slavery; thus lending the weight of their influence "to sanction robbery, and crime and blood," it is the duty of every anti-slavery man and woman to oppose their corruption, and show that they are unworthy the name of churches and ministers of God.

The report of the Executive Committee, and also that of the Treasurer were read and adopted.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met at the usual hour, George Garretson in the chair.

The preamble and resolutions No. 5, in the report of the Business Committee, were taken up and after remarks by Giles Stebbins, Abby Kelly and Mr. Sheldon, were laid upon the table.

The Executive Committee were instructed to call a special meeting of this society, sometime in the Autumn of the present year, at such place as they may think most suitable.

After remarks by Wm. D. Ewing and Abby Kelly the convention adjourned.

CYRUS McNEELY, President.

JAMES BARNABY, JR., Secretary.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Circumstances beyond the control of your Committee, have placed it out of their power for the last year, to do much for the advancement of the great cause of human rights. Immediately after the close of our last anniversary your committee met and organized, and appointed Samuel Brooke our general agent, hoping through his devotion to the cause and the untiring and efficient co-operation, to be enabled to scatter truth with a liberal hand throughout the length and breadth of our State. But his sympathies not being enlisted in the position of our Society in maintaining our auxiliary ship with the American Anti-Slavery Society, he proved merely a nominal agent. Being then, without an efficient general agent (he having been dismissed from the agency,) they have not been enabled to carry forward that efficient plan of operation contemplated at the commencement of the year.

They have, however, been enabled to avail themselves of the services of that devoted and talented brother Wm. W. Brown for three months.

Your Committee have the satisfaction to say that your treasury is unencumbered with any debt; and the report of the treasurer will show the state of the finances of the Society.

Your Committee cannot but look with deep emotion on the state of this nation at the present moment; containing within itself the elements of a fearful and bloody convulsion, and threatened from without with the hostilities of a jealous and powerful potentate, bringing down upon its devoted head the indignation of an offended God, by not only trampling on the rights of humanity at home, but paving the way for extending the wings of the American Eagle over the accursed system in a foreign land. It is that detestable principle of compromise found in the adoption of the Constitution, and acted upon by the government to the present time, that has riveted link after link in the slave's chain, that has manacled limb after limb, until the bleeding and plundered captive is well nigh crushed beneath the ponderous weight. It is reverence for this same principle that holds every slave now in the land. Expose this wicked principle, uproot this foul compromise, and the victory will be won for humanity.

THE BUGLE.

NEW-LISBON, JUNE 20, 1845.

"I love agitation when there is cause for it—the alarm-bell which startles the inhabitants of a city, saves them from being burned in their beds."—Edmund Burke.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY BUGLE.

The Executive Committee of the Ohio American Anti-Slavery Society, deeming it of vital importance to the interests and progress of the cause to have an organ to disseminate Anti-Slavery truth, have concluded to issue the first number of a paper with the above title. The object of the paper will be to show what are the great barriers that stand in the way of the slave's redemption, and to point out a plan for their removal. The subjects of Temperance, Peace, Capital Punishment, &c., will also receive a share of attention in its pages. Its chief labors will be for the overthrow of slavery. In order to effect this it will be necessary to attack this monster in his refuge and hiding-place—the Church. Here he sits enthroned, defended by solemn Reverends and Doctors of Divinity. Here is his strong hold. Whenever an attack is about to be made upon him, he seeks shelter in the pulpits of the land. Divinity comes to his rescue.

And as said Frederick Douglass, "the Church is the fountain from whence the stream of politics flows," therefore must the stream necessarily be corrupt; (if politics can be any thing else,) for a bitter fountain cannot send forth sweet waters. And it does seem from the general doings of the Liberty Party that it is acting the part of a decoy-duck, to divert attention from the "bulwarks of Slavery," pointing at the same time to the ballot-box as the only hope of the slave. Doubtless there are honest minds who think it is so, but more light will enable them to see their error, and the Bugle will endeavor to impart it.

And now, friends of humanity, we ask you in the name of the sighing bondman to lend your aid in sustaining this little sheet. Think of the anguish of the heart-broken slave-mother. Think of the forlorn and agonizing condition of three millions of our brothers and sisters who are clanking their chains upon our soil, robbed of every right, and ranked with the beasts that perish! Talk not of

"hard times." It is the slave who indeed has "hard times." Your condition is an Eden compared to his.—Scarcely a ray of hope lights up the long night of slavery's doom. The past to him is but "a gloomy wilderness of dying thought;" the present a scene of dread and anguish of spirit; the future a moonless and starless night! Then come to his rescue. "Remember him in bonds as bound with him." Let us sound the bugle-note of Freedom over the hills and through the valleys. Let us blow a blast that will wake from their slumbers the tyrants at the South, and their more guilty abettors at the North.

"OUR COUNTRY, RIGHT OR WRONG."

Such is the motto adopted by those whose patriotism is of a mean and selfish character; it fully expresses the principle upon which contracted minds are willing to act, for there are those whose minds are so unenlightened as to have no more definite conception of the meaning of Right and Wrong, than had the man we read of in the story-book of *felicity*, which he defined to be, some part of a pig's "innards."

In their estimation, that is right which their party or their sect approves, and every thing which is opposed to the doctrines of their political or religious creed is wrong, for that unanswerable reason, "because it is." They swallow down doctrines without examination; and are flaming patriots, "because they are." They were born in America, and therefore every thing American, is to them, just right. They are perfectly satisfied with this reasoning, and "Stand by their country therefore, Without a why or wherefore."

We say there is no greater enemy to his country than such a patriot, that in effect he deals treacherously with the land of his birth. He is my true friend who stands by me in the right, but condemns me when in the wrong.—He who loves America will tell her of her faults, will rebuke her for her iniquities, so that she may be brought to repent, and bring forth fruits for repentance, and become in deed as she is now but in name, the land of the free, a refuge for the oppressed.

It is no evidence of patriotism for a man to boil over with indignation because the institutions of his country, and his own actions or those of his fellows are presented in their true character; or to fret and fume with wrath because the God that he has worshipped is shown to be a false God, and not the Creator of the Universe. The true patriot feels this "his country is the world, his countryman are all mankind," and he labors to advance the interests of all, to diffuse the blessings of light and love throughout the world; and he who has not experienced this desire, knows not practically the meaning of patriotism, for the interests of man are one the wide world over, and to promote those interests we must labor for the overthrow of all wrong whether in our own or other lands, abiding ever by the Right and True wherever found.

THE LIBERTY PARTY.

One of the most unpleasant labors in which a reformer can be called to engage, is to oppose those who have professedly as much at heart as himself the good of the enterprise in which he is engaged, but whose measures he is convinced instead of promoting, are retarding its progress. We have found it so in our controversy with the Liberty Party. It was comparatively easy and pleasant for us to battle against open and undisguised pro-slavery, to tear off the fair but deceitful mask from the hideous features of colonization, or to expose the windings and cunning tricks of the insidious serpent New Organization in its clerical garb, but we confess that the Liberty Party has so assumed the guise of an angel of light, and we find drawn into its ranks so many sincere and conscientious, but mistaken friends of the slave, that our duty in exposing its pro-slavery character and tendency is more difficult and more unpleasant.

While we admit that there are such among them, we also contend that as sincere and conscientious advocates of emancipation are to be found in the colonization Society, and in the Whig and Democratic parties which the Liberty party men seem sparingly to denounce, and in the pro-slavery sectarian organizations, which they do not denounce; but at the same time we insist that the measures of colonization, of whig, of democratic and of liberty party, however they may for a while seem to promote the cause of emancipation, all, all tend to build up the accursed system of slavery, and we insist moreover that the leading men of these parties, the influences which govern the rank and file, are not to be trusted with the slave's cause.

The American Anti-Slavery Society has from the first opposed the formation of a distinct political Anti-Slavery party as inexpedient and unwise, and always has condemned the so-called Liberty party, as a measure originating with those who had proved themselves false to the cause of the slave, and whose motives were far from being above suspicion; and this society holds that a political party, whether liberty party or any other, which acts under the United States constitution, is to be condemned upon principle, and does not regard it as a measure whose expediency is questionable. We will briefly state why we, in common with other members of the American society, occupy this position. The United States constitution we regard as a "covenant with death, and an agreement with hell," a partnership contract which all who vote under promise to fulfil, or to aid in fulfilling. We know that it requires its supporters to surrender the fugitive slave, and to gather with force and arms and hew down the insurgent slave—we know that such was the character designed to be given it by its framers and original adopters, and that all honest and enlightened minds will so interpret the instrument. And we also know that before any one can cross the threshold of office, he must swear to support it; and therefore believing it to be wrong to enter into, or promise to fulfil such a compact, knowing that such partnership and such promise gives additional power to the slaveholder to crush, and bruise, and bind, we are bound by our duty to the slave, ourselves, and to God to protest unceasingly and energetically against using as an Anti-slavery agency, the power which is derived from, and is the reward for swearing to support it, but to declare on the contrary that it is pro-slavery in its character and tendency, and that no matter how sincere or how consistent the Liberty party man may be, that Liberty party ground is pro-slavery in po-