THE NATIONAL ERA.

CANADIAN CORRESPONDENCE.

Altered policy of the British Government with reference to the Colonies—Withdrawal of the troops—Church union—Mr. George Thompson—St. Patrick's Day ball—Fugitive slaves.

TORONTO, *May* 7, 1851.

To the Editor of the National Era:

Many persons in the United States are under the impression, that because there is no actual rebellion in Canada, and the senseless cry for "annexation" has subsided in this Province, there are no events of importance occurring that are worthy of attention abroad. But this is a mistake.

Since the outbreak which occurred about fourteen years since, a most liberal policy has been pursued by the British Government—the customs department has been transferred to the North American Colonies, and even the post office has been ceded, and is now under the exclusive control of the local Governments; and it is at present in contemplation to sell the barracks, transfer the management of the public works to the provincial authorities, and to withdraw the troops.

Despatches to this effect have just been published, which will be laid before both branches of the Legislature that is about to assemble, and will doubtless create an animated and exciting discussion.

The British Government have taken care, however, to intimate that, in this procedure, there is nothing which is to be considered as indicating an intention on the part of Great Britain to relinquish the foothold she at present possesses on this Continent; but that it originates in a desire to relieve the Parent State of an apparent, rather than a real, burden—for nowhere can troops be maintained cheaper or better, with regard to discipline and efficiency for service, than in the North American Provinces.

It is also stated that the relations between England and the United States are of that permanently peaceful character, no subject of dispute remaining to be settled, that troops are no longer required in the Colonies to prevent foreign aggression; and if they should be so required, the facilities afforded by steamers would enable Great Britain promptly to meet any such exigency. Troops therefore are no longer wanted for protection; and if an armed force should unfortunately be necessary for the maintenance of internal tranquillity, a well-appointed and efficient militia is stated to be the most constitutional force, and will be found adequate whenever the public peace may be menaced.

In this respect, however, Canada differs from the other Provinces, owing to the antagonism that exists between the two principal races here—the Anglo-Saxon and the French; and I am apprehensive that the calling out the militia to repress disturbances would lead to the most fearful results, and would widen the breach that at present unhappily exists.

In cases of civil commotion, regular and well-disciplined troops are the best to employ, as they carry with them into active service none of those vindictive feelings that actuate the inhabitants of a country so afflicted. This was evinced during the rebellion to which I have alluded. The Queen's troops, accompanied by volunteer regiments, were marched to points where the rebels had entrenched themselves or were in force; and, during these operations, there was necessarily a destruction of private property. Having accomplished the service they were despatched to perform, they returned in an orderly manner to the quarters they had left.

Not so with the volunteers, however, who in a moment of irritation undertook to execute what they conceived stern justice required, and wantonly and unnecessarily destroyed the property of those whom they considered as disaffected, or against whom they were incensed. And it was to remunerate parties who suffered from the losses thus lawlessly inflicted that the Rebellion Losses Bill was passed at Montreal about two years since, which created so much excitement at that time, and led to the destruction of the Parliament building in that city, together with the valuable library which it contained.

Besides the two races before alluded to, an extraordinary degree of animosity exists between the lower orders of Irish and French extraction, although possessing the same religious faith; and I have myself seen a respectably-dressed Irish female prevented by the beadle from entering the Roman Catholic Cathedral; while in the lumbering districts, unless the French are in sufficient numbers to resist an attack, they meet with rough usage at the hands of the Irish.

With communities so situated, it appears to me indispensable that small bodies of troops should be stationed at convenient points for the preservation of order, and to be ready to interfere should such interference be required, but who can never act except at the instance and under the direction of a civil magistrate.

There is a great aversion, however, on the part of the local authorities, to employ troops for the performance of the duties of policemen; and although soldiers obey the orders of their officers with determined alacrity, yet they feel an honorable reluctance to wage war upon their fellow-citizens—quite as much so as do the volunteers of the United States, who are occasionally called out, when the civil power is obstructed in the due exercise of its functions.

The despatch of Earl Grey—one of those alluded to—is in reply to one which he had received from the Governor General, accompanied by the report of the Executive Council relative to the reduction of salaries—principally of the judges and heads of Departments; the latter being members of the Government, and receiving $4,000 per annum, which it is proposed to reduce to $3,200. As these officers have to perform legislative and executive duties, unknown to State officers in the United States, which require their constant time and attention, and as, besides this, they have to keep up establishments that are expensive, I do not think such an allowance can be considered as extravagant, particularly as they receive no fees, these for the most part having been abolished in the Colonies.

The salary of the Governor General it is intended to defray from the Imperial treasury, which will place that officer in a more independent and agreeable situation than he now fills. The salary at present is rather over $30,000; but he is required to live in much state, and to dispense the hospitalities of Government house as becomes her Majesty's representative; while the Earl of Elgin states in his despatch that he gave up a more lucrative situation, in obedience to the Queen's commands, to assume the Government of this Province—and further, which I have some reason to believe is the case, that no Governor of a Colony can properly act as such—visit various parts of his Government, and contribute, as he is expected to, to the promotion of objects of public and private benevolence—without having a private fortune of his own, or his half pay, to fall back upon.

As to the clergy reserves, to which I alluded in a former letter, the members of the church of England, both clerical and laity, are not going to surrender them tamely. There has been a Convention held here, called by the Bishop, where one hundred and thirty clergymen were present; at which suitable resolutions were passed, and a church union has been formed, a meeting of which I attended on Friday evening.

There were some able speeches delivered on that occasion; and I think the fact was clearly established, that the voluntary system has not answered in the United States, or where it has been tried in England. The circumstance of a due respect being paid in the former country, where similar grants had been made by a former King, notwithstanding it had become a separate and independent nation, and its inhabitants had withdrawn their allegiance, was spoken of in the highest terms.

It was stated in connection with this subject that the Trinity church property, which was granted during the reign of Queen Anne, afforded at that time a rental of but $150; whereas at present, owing to the increased value of property in the city of New York, the income of that church from this source is $70,000, and its fee simple is estimated at three millions of dollars. It was further stated that in a few solitary instances, where the State Legislatures have annulled grants of this nature, the Supreme Court of the United States had declared the acts they passed to be unconstitutional, thereby securing the proprietors in the perpetual enjoyment of the gifts and their advantages.

As to this Province, although the granting of these reserves was for the maintenance of the Protestant religion in the Colony, and was undoubtedly intended as an endowment for the established church, although not so expressed, yet in 1840 an act of Parliament was passed dividing the proceeds among those denominations which chose to accept their proportion, and which the large religious denominations really did—the act of Parliament being understood to be a final settlement of a vexatious and irritable question, of which every popularity hunter makes ample use.

Under this act the parties interested may be said to have taken possession, that portion of the annual sales of lands which belonged to the established church being passed over to the society for propagating the Gospel in foreign parts, for distribution among the clergymen, and for building churches in the Province; and the other proportion claimed to the different bodies authorized to receive them. It remains to be seen, therefore, whether Parliament will annul a former act, under which parties hold. In the United States, it will be seen from what has already been stated, this could not be done.

I am viewing this question purely as one of property, and in a strictly constitutional bearing; for if the Protestant churches can be despoiled in the manner that is sought, the same rule must apply to the Roman Catholic church, which holds immense grants from the Crown in the Lower Province, or from the French King when it belonged to France, and consequently is possessed of enormous wealth. Nor can the owners of immense tracts of wilderness land to the injury of the country, which was granted improvidently I admit, be secure in the possession of property obtained at a time when it was but of little worth, but which is daily increasing in value.

The popular outcry that has been raised for a reduction of the salaries of public officers, including that of the Governor General, equally evinces an absence of those principles of honesty and fair dealing for which communities, as well as individuals, should be remarkable. The scale of salaries referred to was agreed upon immediately after the union of the Provinces, the Crown agreeing to relinquish its right to the public lands, and which is still retained by the Government of the United States, upon the Colony consenting to pay the civil list, as then agreed upon, during the life of the reigning sovereign, and for a term of years after her demise.

Yet this is the compact which the Legislature is already desirous of annulling, and which the Colonial Secretary has expressed his willingness to have readjusted, again to become the fruitful source of popular clamor. There is a parsimonious feeling prevalent in the Colonies, which has been the greatest bar to their advancement; hence the cry for "annexation" has its origin in purely pecuniary considerations, and not because its advocates believe that the people of this Province would be more free or possess greater rights than they do at present, if it were granted.

I see it stated in some of the papers that Mr. Thompson, who at present is in the lower part of the Province, has received an intimation that two persons are following him for the purpose of assassination. I am [illegible] that he is the dupe of a mere fiction, if he believes the report; for, however personally offensive he may be to the "chivalry of the South," I am satisfied it would not lend its sanction to so unjustifiable a procedure, notwithstanding the opinions he entertains are decidedly opposed to the interest of the Southern planter and his views.

Fugitive slaves are arriving here by almost every steamer from the opposite side of the Lake, and so far as I have met with them they are a respectable body of people. I saw a family land a few mornings since; the man was a fine, robust person, with a wife and four or five children, who, if I might judge from their baggage, were in comfortable circumstances. He told me he had been a farmer in Pennsylvania, but had availed himself of the earliest opportunity of escaping from the operation of the Fugitive Slave Law.

The Anti-Slavery Society here have published an appeal to the public for aid in behalf of those destitute persons of this description who are arriving, and I hope some steps will be taken by the Government to locate them on some of the fertile lands of the Province; not in distinct communities, however, but where they would be incited to emulation by their white brethren around them. I do not know whether any plan of this kind is in contemplation; but when the Legislature meets, if no other public writer takes the subject in hand, I will call attention to the measure through the columns of the public papers.

The Roman Catholic Cathedral was burglariously entered on Thursday night. The parties have since been arrested, and committed for trial. Most of the stolen articles have been recovered, but they were much injured.

A ball was given on Thursday evening, at the St. Lawrence Hall, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day—the anniversary this year having fallen during Lent, and therefore could not be then kept consistently with the rules of the Roman Catholic church. It was a splendid affair; the Mayor of Buffalo, with other citizens of that place, were invited, but did not attend. The Governor General was present, and did not quit the Hall till half past two in the morning; and, as is always the case, contributed his quota towards the general hilarity that prevailed. His Lordship is a thoroughly-educated nobleman, and is an accomplished and fluent public speaker, who is never more happy and felicitous than when complimenting the ladies; and on the present occasion the fair daughters of Erin and Canada were in such profusion and glee that he could not select or hit amiss.

Dancing was resumed after supper, and continued till approaching daylight warned the votaries of pleasure to quit the joyous scene.

W.

For the National Era.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE SECULAR PERIODICAL PRESS OF OUR COUNTRY TO AMERICAN LITERATURE.

No. 3.

The Literature of the Periodical Press.

The last article presented the periodical press as sustaining to literature the relation of censor of the book press. There is a more direct relation which is next to be considered—that of contributor to the stores of literature, by means of its own original matter. Newspaper writing has become an important branch of literature, both in quantity and quality. The issues of the periodical press are enormous. The industry and fertility of many editors are almost incredible. Editorial and communicated matter composes a large share of the popular reading, and must of course form in part the national taste. Newspaper productions constitute a distinct species of literature, having strongly marked characteristics, and demanding a peculiar order of talents. In view of this fact, and of the immense number of monthlies, semi-monthlies, weeklies, and dailies, and of the host of writers enlisted, the periodical press, it must be admitted, is destined to effect great modifications in letters. Already some of the richest contributions to our literature have been derived from the periodical press; and the republication in volumes of newspaper matter has become a large branch of the book business. Already many of the ablest writers have become either editors, or contributors to the popular journals. We have not a few distinguished poets and prose writers who began their career in connection with the newspaper press, and whose reputation is identified with it. But for the fostering influence of journals and journalists, the powers of some of our most admired writers would probably never have been developed, or would have flowed in some other channel than that of letters—perhaps in the bloody one of war, perhaps in the sordid one of trade, perhaps in the crooked one of politics.

Not only have many distinguished names been won to letters, but their productions have been stamped with the peculiarities of newspaper literature. This has affected, and must still more affect, the character of books. It may not diminish the number annually published, but it will, perhaps, reduce their voluminousness, and popularize their style. We can already form some idea of the destined effect of periodical writing upon our literature. The vigor and directness, the energy of thought, the out-flaming of feeling, and the earnest vehemence, summoning every available resource of intellect and sensibility to carry the point by a *coup de main*, must impart to our national literature great strength and spirit. Meanwhile, the haste of editorial composition, so unfavorable to high literary excellence, must yield before the demands of an improving public taste, and give place to better habits; else, as we say of clergymen who do not study, editors will *not be able to sustain themselves*. They need more time, not only for careful composition, but for profound reflection, for minute and varied observation, for rigid mental discipline, for the acquisition of multifarious knowledge, for the cultivation of the imagination and the taste, and for the improvement of their moral nature. The editor should be a thoroughly furnished man. He should have not only tact, but talent—not only readiness, but resource—not only point, but power; and, moreover, he should have purity of principle. All these qualifications are necessary to editorial excellence in any department of journalism, aside from the claims of national literature; much more so when these claims are considered. And they should never be lost sight of in estimating editorial responsibility. Every journalist should discharge his functions under a constant sense of obligation to the literature of his country. Nothing in language or sentiment should pass into the compositor's hands which would be vitiating to the forming aggregate. To gain a point in politics, or to circumvent an opponent, no editor should consent to sacrifice interests which are to endure long after the petty strifes of party and of self have been forgotten. Whatever is low, mean, coarse, unprincipled, servile, insolent, narrow-minded, bad-tempered, impious, flashy, frivolous, sophistical, should be excluded from our journals; for, admitted there, it will taint the streams which flow into the reservoir of our national literature.

We may not expect in every editor the highest intellectual ability, but we may demand purity of principle, dignity of character, a cultivated style, and devotion to the interests of literature. Without these qualities, one had better seek a less responsible postition. And, indeed, without very considerable talent and scholarly attainments, we would advise a friend of ours to be a lawyer, or a candidate for Congress, rather than aspire to the editorial dignity. The very first class of men ought to be at the head of the periodical press. The manifold and momentous questions—political, social, reformatory, ethical—which it is the province of the journals to discuss, the multitudes to whom their inculcations are doctrine, the countless families to whom they furnish weekly instruction and stimulus, and the interests of American literature to so great an extent under their guardianship, demand eminent editorial qualifications. For the respectability of the secular press, it might suffice to have a few able journalists, whose productions might circulate though the whole press system, whose reputation might redeem the American press from utter contempt. But this will not answer the demands of a national literature. The secular press must be generally improved. Eminent editors may, to gratify a sordid ambition, seek to maintain their exaltation above the fraternity; but if they would evince a superiority to aims so low, and prove themselves truly elevated, they will bear aloft the editorial standard, and summon their brethren to aspire to it, they will be jealous of the character of their country's press and of their country's literature, rather than of their own reputation; and in the name of American literature they will denounce and expose the literary delinquencies of the periodical press as freely as those of the book press.

J. A. T.

FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Declaration and Testimony of the Free Presbyterian Church of the United States against the Fugitive Slave Law.

The Synod of the Free Presbyterian Church of the United States assembled at Ripley, Ohio, in the month of April, 1851, deem it their duty to make and publish the following Declaration and Testimony in regard to the enactment of the late National Congress, known as the "Fugitive Slave Law."

We distinctly recognise Civil Government, not only as an institution of Nature, but as the ordinance of God; and the civil magistrate as "the minister of God for good" to the people. We clearly admit, therefore, that general and cheerful obedience to law, especially in a republican form of government, is a Christian as well as a civil duty. But there is a limit, beyond which the civil magistrate has no right to command, and the people have no right to obey. That limit is reached whenever a Government, regardless alike of its honor, its interests, and its duty, defies the authority of Heaven in its legislation, transcends its legitimate powers, and commands the people to do that which is *wrong*, by which is meant, that which conflicts with the will of the Supreme Legislator as it is revealed in the moral law. Such a Government becomes a terrible engine of oppression, and forfeits its claim to be considered as the ordinance of God; and the people owe it to themselves and their Creator, to alter, and if need be to abolish the same, and set up another in its place that shall conform in its features to the will of God as expressed in the Scriptures, and thus accomplish the great end for which civil government was ordained, viz: the protection of the rights and liberties of the people. But Governments, under constitutions which are good in the main, may in haste, or under pressure of temptation, enact a law which clearly contravenes the law of God, and which, if not expunged from the statute-book, may harden the hearts of the people, and prepare them for final apostacy and ruin. It then becomes the duty of the people, and especially of those who as Christians have sworn allegiance to the throne of God, promptly to decline obedience to the obnoxious statute, and suffer the consequences. Thus did the three believers, who braved the flames of Nebuchadnezzar's furnace, in preference to becoming traitors to God. Thus did the captive Daniel, when he would rather meet death in the lions' den than obey the law of an idolatrous Government. Thus did Peter and John, when they obeyed God and preached the Gospel, with the possible sacrifice of life and liberty, rather than maintain silence, according to the requirements of the constituted authorities. Thus also did our martyred fathers, who, under the bloody reign of the Stuarts, gave themselves up to death in its most awful forms, rather than render obedience to the unrighteous enactments of Government, and thus disobey God. And the aggregate of the world's liberties, civil and religious, at the present time, is the result of the stuggle of God-fearing men in the generations of the past, against the arbitrary demands of unholy and irresponsible power.

The bill which passed the two Houses of Congress, and received the signature of the President of the United States, on the 18th of September, 1850, and which is now known and in force as the Fugitive Slave Law, is, in the judgment of this Synod, a high-handed outrage against Heaven, and a fearful omen of our national downfall.

This law makes the love of liberty, which the Creator has kindled up on the altar of every man's heart, a crime, and punishes the indulgence of it with chains and servitude.

It rejects and repudiates all those common law principles of evidence, which have been ratified by the wisdom of past ages, and which were intended to throw the shield of protection over the sacred rights of man.

It denies to those who have escaped from a worse than Egyptian, Roman, or Algerine bondage, the right of trial by jury and the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*—constitutional guaranties which protect even the thief and the murderer.

It makes obedience to the Gospel a criminal offence, and forbids us to give food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, and shelter to the weary.

The voice of Nature, as well as the law of God, calls upon us to sympathize with the fugitive, and assist him in his flight from the prison-house of bondage. But this law would transform us into monsters of cruelty, and commands us, under heavy penalties, to bar his way, to load him with irons, and to thrust him back into a condition more dreadful than death itself.

It holds out pecuniary inducements and offers legal facilities to wicked men, to drag freemen from their homes and families, and consign them to hopeless bondage.

It destroys that sense of personal security, which every honest man has a right to feel; and even we ourselves, who received the birthright of our liberties immediately from God, now hold them only at the mercy of legalized man-stealers.

It commands us, under the threatening of fine and imprisonment, to take part in arresting those who may be the redeemed children of God, charged with no crime, and forcing them back into a condition of heathenism and moral disability, where it is impossible for them to obey the precepts of the Gospel and live the lives of consistent Christians, and thus prepare for the eternal world.

Such being some of the prominent characteristics of the Fugitive Slave Law, we, the ministers and ruling elders composing this synod, in faithfulness to Almighty God and the Government of the United States, do bear our solemn testimony against the same, as utterly opposed to the law of God—as abhorrent to humanity and the civilization of the age—as entirely at variance with the spirit and precepts of the Gospel of Jesus Christ—as dangerous to the liberties of the people, and therefore as null and void, and of no binding force upon the conscience.

We declare and testify before God and the Government of the United States that we cannot, and will not, render obedience to this inhuman enactment, preferring infinitely to suffer its unrighteous penalties rather than to comply with its requisitions, and thus become guilty of treason against God and humanity.

We testify against the conduct of those professed ministers of the Gospel, in this country, who have publicly and in the name of religion justified this wicked law, and called upon the people to take part in its execution. We believe that such men are either knowingly or ignorantly tearing up the foundations of the church of God, opening the flood-gates of infidelity, and preparing the land for a baptism of blood.

We testify against and declare unceasing hostility to the system of American Slavery, which has not only enslaved the Government of the country, and dictated its public policy, but which has also subjugated the church, filled the hearts of many of her ministers with cowardice and treason, seared the consciences and blinded the eyes of a majority of her members, and carried her far on the downward road to entire apostacy.

And we especially testify against those two branches of the Presbyterian church in the United States from which we seceded, and which will continue to authorize and justify the sin of slaveholding as it is practiced by multitudes of their ministers, elders, and church members. In the judgment of this synod, such large and influential denominations of professing Christians are chiefly responsible for the existence of slavery among us. Their position has strengthened the slave power, and encouraged it to demand the passage of that atrocious enactment which has disgraced us in the eyes of foreign nations, and which, if not repealed, must draw down the vengeance of Heaven upon us as a people.

And that this declaration and testimony may be *really*, as well as legally, the act of the Free Presbyterian church of the United States, we recommend that the pastors, stated supplies and sessions of vacant churches, cause the same to be read from the pulpit on the Lord's day, and that our people be then called upon solemnly to express their adherence thereto in such a manner as may be deemed proper.

We moreover recommend that inasmuch as our only hope for the reform of the Government and salvation of our beloved country is in the merciful interposition of Him who is the King of nations and the hearer of prayer, our people will earnestly supplicate a throne of grace, that our national councils may be speedily purged of unholy and unprincipled men, that the wicked enactment called the Fugitive Slave Law may be repealed, and that our free institutions may be perpetuated to the end of time.

And, in the great struggle in which we are engaged, of vindicating the religion of Jesus Christ from the foul slander that it tolerates, authorizes, and justifies the diabolical system of American Slavery, and its counterpart the Fugitive Slave Law, we extend the hand of confidence and fellowship to those other denominations of Christians in the United States, which have adopted our principles, and are aiming at the same object; and we express the earnest hope that the bonds which unite us together in this noble work may become stronger and stronger, until our real unity shall show itself to the world in our visible unity.

PITTSFORD, VT., *March* 29, 1851.

To the Editor of the National Era:

SIR: I read a piece in the *Era* of the 13th instant, "The duty of Anti Slavery Voters." The principle of a general organization I heartily approve, specifying our principles fully, viz: a specific, protective, tariff; restraining slavery within its present bounds; abolish it within the District of Columbia; a repeal of the Fugitive Slave Laws; land reform; river and harbor improvements; a fixed opposition to slavery in all its phases. Say nothing about free trade, as that will save our manufacturing establishments. As to the name of Democracy, it has been odious to me, ever since that whiskey insurrection and the Baltimore mob. The Madison war was brought on by the Democratic party, also the Seminole war, the annexation of Texas, the Mexican war; in fact, all the calamities of our country. Democrats have been the leading men in all troubles; therefore, I repudiate the name, and would prefer any other to Whig or Democrat. I should prefer Federalist; as, in order to effect any purpose, we must have a confederation of Whigs, Democrats, and Liberty men. Washington, the Adamses, John Jay, Roger Sherman, Dr. Franklin, Patrick Henry, Alexander Hamilton, and all the best patriots of our country, were Federalists; and we are bound to revere their names and principles, as the founders of our Government. If we can make a declaration of our principles, if they are honest and correct, and send them through the country, I believe, with God's help, enough will join to elect our next President. I feel that our anti-slavery cause depends much upon correct principles, generally diffused in good season. I hope it will soon be started with good principles and a good name; but reject both Whig and Democrat. And may the Lord prosper our cause. I do not write this for publication, as I am not competent, but simply to give you my ideas, hoping that some who are competent will start the subject in the right way.

Yours, with respect, S. PENFIELD.

FREEDOM MEETING AT PAINESVILLE.

Pursuant to previous notice, the citizens of Lake and the adjoining counties assembled at the Court House in Painesville, May 6th, 1851, to take such action in opposition to the recent so-called peace measures, passed at the last session of the American Congress, and particularly the Fugitive Slave Law, as the importance of the subjects may demand. The meeting was called to order by E. D. Howe, Esq., and on his motion the Hon. J. P. Converse of Geauga was chosen Chairman; Lucretius Bissell of Ashtabula, Austin Richards of Geauga, and E. D. Howe of Lake, were appointed Vice Presidents, and O. P. Brown of Geauga, and L. S. Abbon of Lake, were elected Secretaries. J. C. Vaughn, Esq., of Cleveland, was invited to address the assembly, with which invitation he complied. Mr. Vaughan addressed the meeting eloquently, but briefly.

On motion, Uri Seeley, Erastus Spencer, B. W. Richmond, J. F. Asper, J. C. Vaughn, J. F. Morse, J. M. Brown, and B. B. Hunter, were appointed a committee on resolutions. George Bradburn of Massachusetts, being present, was loudly called for to make a speech, but, on account of the state of his health, was unable to do so. J. R. Giddings then took the stand, at the call of the meeting, and spoke for some hours. Mr. Giddings's speech was worthy the man and the occasion.

The committee on resolutions submitted the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we will not, for slaveholders or slavery, abandon the Union, but will fight on and fight ever, for Freedom and the rights of man, as the best means of saving the Union from the destructive influences and reckless policy of the advocates of the lower law.

Resolved, That, in our judgment, Congress has no power to pass any law for the rendition of fugitive slaves, as the fugitive clause, so called, is only a compact between the States.

Resolved, That the action under this slave law has not changed our early opinions of that detestable and abominable law; but, as we are true to Freedom and man, we now, more than ever, detest, abhor, and utterly repudiate, that pretended law, and will do all we can to make the political graves of all who assisted in its passage, or consented thereto, or any who will assist in its execution.

Resolved, That, as freemen, we demand of Congress that the Fugitive Law and all proceedings pertaining thereto be expunged from the records of the nation.

Resolved, That the General Government, by lending its influence and its officers to put into force the slave-catching law, has far transcended its power and duty, and has by such a course become a usurper, and stands opposed to liberty.

Resolved, That we rejoice in the election of Charles Sumner to the United States Senate; that it is a glorious comment on the conduct of Webster, and the operation of the *lower law*, in the remanding of Sims to a life of bondage.

Resolved, That Massachusetts is now entitled to the *forgiveness* invoked in the following lines of Lowell—

"Massachusetts! God forgive her,
She is kneeling with the rest."

Resolved, That we recommend an early nomination of candidates for President and Vice President, that a place of refuge may be furnished for the multitudes of "fugitives" from the other parties.

Resolved, That we recommend a Mass Convention of the friends of Freedom on the Western Reserve, to be held at Ravenna, on the 25th of June next.

Resolved, That we ask the citizens of Ravenna to appoint the appropriate committees and make the requisite arrangements.

Resolved, That we recommend each county in the State to hold county conventions, to effect a county organization of Free-Soilers in every county in the State, previous to the 25th of June.

Mr. Bradburn, being again called, spoke for a few moments only.

Voted, that the proceedings be published in all the papers on the Reserve, and the National Era. Adjourned *sine die*.

THE STAR AND THE STREAM.

A STORY FOR CHILDREN.

Before the door of a pretty cottage, sat a little boy and girl. The day had been wild and stormy, but its

"last
Bright hours atoned for dark ones past."

The evening came on calm and beautiful; the atmosphere was peculiarly clear, and the deep blue of the sky was only broken by a few white streamer-like clouds that floated high in air. The blustering, surly wind had died away into a gentle whisper, and was now dallying with the wild flowers that sprung up, unheeded, amid the long meadow-grass. The trees cast a gigantic shadow athwart the tiny stream, that gurgled on, adding its sweet prattling noise, as it played around a stone or pebble, to the sough of the bending branches, and the low dreamy sound caused by the undulating grass.

"The moving moon went up the sky,
And nowhere did abide;
Slowly she was going up,
And a star or two beside."

"Look, Annie," said the boy, eagerly, "oh, look at that star. There it is, peeping up behind the mountain—how bright! how bright!" and he clapped his hands in delight too great for words.

For a long time the children gazed, without speaking, at the twinkling star, which appeared to them to rise and sink behind the top of their favorite hill.

"Willie, do you love the moon?" said his little sister, quietly—so quietly it was almost a whisper. "I do!"

"And so do I!" replied the boy, warmly.

"Do you love the moon or the star the best?"

"The moon or the star," repeated the boy slowly, in a puzzled tone. "Love the moon or the star the best? Why, Annie, what made you think of that?" "Oh! I think of it every night, and I love the little star better than the big bright moon, and I dreamed about it last night. Come in and ask mamma which she loves best."

The sun shone brightly on the home of the little girl and boy next morning, and all was life and bustle. The cows were lowing in a neighboring field and clustering round the paddock, impatient to be relieved of their liquid load; the birds, up early to greet the rising sun, were raining down melody from the bosom of a sheltering cloud, and herbs and flowers were sending up their fragrant morning incense to the sky. The smoke ascended from the cottage chimney in spiral lines, that grew broader and fainter as it mounted, and at last, floating off, contributed to swell a cumulous cloud that was hovering above the horizon. * * *

Fresh and happy the children set off for school. The thoughtful look that lay upon their childish features, as they had gazed at the moon and star, had vanished, and was replaced by a more animated every-day expression. Their talk was now of lessons and classes, and, as they strolled on, plucking a leaf or flower from the pleasant hawthorn hedges that bordered the road, and flung their perfume far and wide, a keen observer could have detected one angry spot in the hearts of both. A vindictive schoolmate, older than either, had exulted, the day before, in no unmeasured terms, over Willie, when reprimanded by his teacher for inattention. This was but one of a series of annoyances that went on, day by day, becoming more aggravated, until Willie's dislike was ripening into hatred; and Annie entered too deeply into all his feelings not to dislike his tormenter with her whole heart. The day did not pass over without [illegible] was more insulting than ever—misrepresented something Willie had said the day before of his teachers, induced several of his classmates to desert him, and called him a milk-sop, a great girl, and other names, until Willie reddened to the temples, and Annie cried with vexation.

Their mother knew by their flushed cheeks, and moist, but flashing eyes, that something had occurred in school to grieve and vex them, and as she had the clue to it, she guessed pretty correctly what it was. But she took no notice. The agitated voices became firm, the flush passed from the cheek and the moisture from the eye, but she asked no questions, and made no remark. She occupied them until the evening closed in, and the deepening sky showed little white round specks, that an observant eye alone could distinguish, but which, in the darkness, would shine out stars unmistakeably. The sun set in a flood of glory, and left a trail of light behind. "Dying day died like the dolphin," the sunset grew paler and paler, the warm, bright colors faded, the glow was gone, and "all was gray."

The children sat in mute and quiet expectation. They were glad when the shadows encircled hill and vale; gladder still when the pathway that led through the field to the high-road became indistinct, and nothing was seen save the glittering streamlet and the sparkling stars.

They looked for a few moments, and then hurried away.

"I don't want to look at the stars any more; I don't care for them to-night. I don't think anything about them," said Willie. "I can't think of nothing but James Wood. I'll tell you, Annie—whisper."

His sister drew closer to him.

"I hate him."

This, though uttered in a subdued tone, had a vehemence that was startling in one of his age.

"I'll not dream about the stars to-night, Willie; *that* I know. I'll just dream about that odious—"

"Hush!" said Willie, "here's mother."

Mrs. Mildmay was graver than usual, as she sat down and placed the children beside her.

"Watching the stars?" she said. "I would not wonder if you dreamed of the stars. But come, I have nothing to do to-night, so I will tell you a dream I once had about a star, when I was a very little girl."

The children were all delighted attention; they forgot, in one moment, James Wood and all the grief he had caused them, and bent forward in listening eagerness.

"You know that I had a step-sister."

"Oh yes, and we know that she was very unkind to you."

"Yes, my dear, so she was; but I must tell you that I was very wicked, and almost hated her, and that was very bad. I had fallen asleep one night, crying, for I was very unhappy, and I thought I stood by a broad and rapid river. It was so clear I could see to the bottom—glancing pebbles and beauteous shells, of every shape and hue, were there distinctly visible; fishes, large and shall, shot past with arrowy swiftness; some sported in the shallow, and others sought the deep pools. I thought it was evening—such an evening as this—the moon had not risen, but the stars were shining brightly. The bed of the river was not level, like that of your pretty brook, for it rolled its waters down the side of a gentle declivity, which, of course, added to the rapidity of its current, and yet, though it moved rapidly onwards, it was calm and unruffled as a standing pool. Small, lithe shrubs bent over it; wild flowers were mirrored in its placid surface, and its banks were fringed with luxuriant grass, whose deep green was reflected in its waters. I saw all this at a glance, and I heard the river brawling, further down—

"The gentle river," said Annie, sorrowfully.

"Yes, darling! the gentle river was brawling loudly, and became noisier as it proceeded. I turned to look, but, instead of delicate shrubs, tall trees were standing, whose branches interlacing, cast a gloom athwart it, and intercepted the views. Still, through many a leafy vista, I could see the glancing river, hurrying on with wild impetuosity to the brow of a precipice, over which it dashed. A subterranean channel received it, and I saw it no more. Beautiful as the spot was, and indelibly as it is impressed on my memory, I thought not of it then. One brief glance sufficed to take in all I have described, and then my attention became riveted on one object. A star, brighter than the evening star when brightest, was above me, shining in the zenith. The other stars were dim in comparison, and I could but gaze on it and its radiant reflection in the liquid mirror below. I knew not which was most beautiful.

"Even as I looked, a change came over the scene, sudden and complete. We may feel terrified or delighted, glad or sorry, in a dream, but there is one feeling no dream, however strange, can excite, and that is surprise. You understand me, Annie?"

"Oh, yes, mamma, I do. I was not surprised the other night to see my star come down to me."

"You do, I know, Willie? Well, I wasn't surprised by the change, great though it was. The tranquil, limpid river was black and turgid; the wild flowers were sullied and torn up by the roots, and the shrubs were leafless, as if the blasts of many a "drear-nighted December" had whistled through them. The pure, transparent waters—where were they? And the dancing star? Gone, gone! I felt that nothing could bring them back, and I felt that nothing could compensate for their loss.

"And then I loathed the river with a feeling inexpressibly deep, and turned from it, that my eyes might be no more offended by its deformity. But, at the moment, a something in the middle of the stream, too dim to be called bright, arrested my attention. What could it be? Surely, not the star. One rapid glance above, and there was no room for doubt. Brightly as ever, there it shone. And that dim brightness, that faded splendor—was it the reflection of the glorious orb above? I shrank from admitting the possibility of it even to myself.

"What! the river, on which I could not bear to look, thus favored! The full glory of the dazzling star poured out for it as lovingly as when the clear, calm waters gave back its image undimmed! And why could I not look upon it? True, its beauty was gone, its unsullied purity was gone—but the star I loved shone there, and better still, though sullied and impure, it gave back its image, broken, indeed, and faint, as the remembrance of a dream within a dream, but still a reflection, or rather a something, by which I knew the star was shining on it.

"A sound like nothing I had ever heard filled the air around me—a low, murmuring, melodious sound,

"As if a rush of angel's wings
Passed musically by;"

And ever and anon, as if it were the refrain to a song, I heard these words:

Despise not the river, for there shines the star,
Its flowers are all dead,
And their perfume is fled,
And darkness and discord its loveliness mar,
Yet despise not the river, for there shines the star.

"With these words ringing in my ears, I wakened. Now, Willie, read me my dream."

"O, dear mother, I know very well what it means. I shall never hate James Wood again, no matter what he does to me. I shall love him for the star's sake."—*Selected.*

AGENCY FOR CLAIMS.

THE undersigned, having had several years' experience in one of the public Departments of Washington, offers his services to claimants for military and naval pensions, invalid pensions, bounty land, &c. His experience and practical acquaintance with the minor details of business transacted in the accounting offices, and his knowledge of the decisions made in the adjudication of claims, enable him to offer his services with the confident assurance of procuring early and satisfactory action on all claims presented by him.

He will give his personal attention in the settlement of all claims against the United States—such as expense incurred in the organization of volunteers; accounts of recruiting officers; claims for horses lost or property destroyed; privateer pensions; quartermasters, commissaries, and wagon masters' accounts; extra pay, back pay, rejected claims, and claims before Congress.

Naval Pensions.—In all cases where any officer, seaman, marine, engineer, fireman, or coal heaver, belonging to the United States navy, has died in the naval service of a wound received, or disease contracted, in the line of duty, leaving a widow or minor children, there is more or less pension due, the amount depending upon the circumstances of each particular case

Mexican War.—In case of any officer or soldier, either of the regular army or volunteers, who died in the service during the late war with Mexico, or after leaving the service, of wounds received or diseases contracted in said service, leaving a widow, or children under sixteen years of age, there is a pension due to such widow or children.

It may be further stated, as a general rule, that in all cases where any officer of the regular army, or any officer or private soldier of the militia, including rangers, sea-fencibles, or volunteers, either in the war of 1812 [illegible] leaving a widow, or children under sixteen years of age, there is a pension due to such widow or children, or widow and children, as the case may be, if it has never been received.

Invalid Pensions.—All officers and privates, whether of the army, navy, militia, or volunteers, who have been at any time disabled in the service by wounds received or disease contracted while in the line of duty, are entitled to pensions, the amount depending upon the rank of the invalid and the degree of disability.

In many of the public offices, and in the Pension Office particularly, there is a great number of suspended and rejected claims, many of which could be established, if put into the hands of an efficient agent at the seat of Government, who is thoroughly acquainted with that branch of business.

All letters addressed to *A. M. GANGEWER, Washington, D. C.*, (the postage being paid) making inquiries in regard to claims, will be promptly attended to. Claims for *pension, back pay, and extra pay*, will be attended to without charge, unless they are successfully prosecuted in which case he will charge a reasonable percentage upon the sum recovered.

Persons writing to him in regard to claims, should communicate all the facts of the case, in *as full a manner as possible*. Especially, in all claims for pension, extra or back pay, or bounty lands, the name of the officer or soldier, the time and place of his enlistment, the company and regiment in which he served, the length of time he served, &c., should be fully stated.

He will send forms and instructions, when sufficient facts are communicated to enable him to determine what laws are applicable to the case. A. M. GANGEWER,
March 13, 1851.—6m *Washington, D. C.*

References—Hon. S. P. Chase, Ohio; Hon. D. Wilmot, Pennsylvania; Hon. O. Cole, Wisconsin; Hon. Ellis Lewis, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Gen. Edward Armor, Carlisle, Pennsylvania; Dr. G. Bailey, Editor National Era; and the accounting officers generally.

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