WASHINGTON, D. C.

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For the National Era.

THE LEGAL TENURE OF SLAVERY.

LETTER XVI.

SLAVERY ILLEGAL BY THE STATE CONSTITUTIONS FORMED FROM 1776 TO 1789, AND AFTERWARDS.

To the Friends of American Liberty:

I have shown that Slavery cannot be legalized in any of the States that are founded upon the Declaration of Independence, unless or until they have formally repealed and repudiated that Declaration, which none of them have yet done.

I shall now show that, in addition to all this, the State Constitutions of the several States, including the present slave States, or many of them, are incompatible with Slavery, insomuch that they would have abolished any previously established legal Slavery, if it had existed among them.

I will begin with Massachusetts, where a judicial decision has determined that the State Constitution prohibits Slavery, and then compare with the Constitution of Massachusetts those of some of the slave States.

"In Massachusetts, it was judicially decided, soon after the Revolution, that Slavery was virtually abolished *by the Constitution*, and that the issue of a female slave, though born *prior* to the Constitution, was born free."—*Kent's Commentary, p.* 252.

In giving the opinion of the Court in the case of the Commonwealth *vs.* Thomas Aves, in 1833, Chief Justice Shaw said:

"How, or by what act particularly, Slavery was abolished in Massachusetts, whether by the adoption of the opinion in Somerset's case, as a declaration or modification of the Common Law, or by the Declaration of Independence, or by the Constitution of 1780, is not now very easy to determine; and it is rather a matter of curiosity than utility, it being agreed on all hands that, *if not abolished before*, it was by the Declaration of Rights." * * * *

"Without pursuing this inquiry further, it is sufficient for the purposes of the case before us, that *by the Constitution adopted in* 1780, Slavery was abolished in Massachusetts, on the ground that it is contrary to natural right and the plain principles of justice. The terms of the first article of the Declaration of Rights are plain and explicit. 'All men are born free and equal, and have certain natural, essential, and unalienable rights, which are the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, that of acquiring and possessing and protecting property.' It would be difficult to select words more precisely adapted to the abolition of Slavery."—*Pickering's Reports, pp.* 209–10.

It will be observed here, that while Judge Shaw agrees with Chancellor Kent, that the *Constitution* of Massachusetts abolished Slavery in that State, "if not abolished before," (declaring that this is "agreed on all hands,") he adds, that either one of three *other* things which he mentions, viz: 1st, the decision of Lord Mansfield in Somerset's case; 2d, the authority of common laws; or, 3d, the Declaration of Independence, would have been sufficient for the same purpose. *This sustains fully the course of argument I have already pursued.* And it will be noticed, further, that each of these three grounds of deciding the illegality of Slavery (either of which, by itself, would be amply sufficient) are as valid in *all* of the States as they are in Massachusetts. All the States were equally affected by the decision of Somerset's case, equally under the authority of common law, and equally under the operation of the Declaration of Independence. If either one or all of these rendered Slavery illegal in Massachusetts, they rendered it illegal in Virginia, in the Carolinas, and in Georgia.

Let us next see whether the same observation may not be extended to the fourth ground of abolition, mentioned by Judge Shaw, and "agreed on all hands," viz: the State Constitutions. How did those of the slave States compare with that of Massachusetts?

DELAWARE.—"*All men* have, by nature, the rights of worshipping and serving their Creator according to the dictates of their consciences, of enjoying and defending life and *liberty*, of acquiring and protecting reputation and *property*." "THE PEOPLE shall be secure in their PERSONS, houses, papers, and possessions, from all unreasonable searches and SEIZURES." "No attainder shall work *corruption of blood*, nor, except during the life of the *offender*, forfeiture of ESTATE." *

MARYLAND.—"All government, of right, originates from THE PEOPLE, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of THE WHOLE." "The INHABITANTS of Maryland are entitled to the COMMON LAW OF ENGLAND."

"Entitled," consequently, to protection from Slavery.

"The right, in the PEOPLE, to participate in the Legislature, is the best security of liberty, and the foundation of all free government." "EVERY MAN has a right to petition the Legislature," &c.

"That *monopolies* are odious, contrary to the spirit of a free Government, and *ought not to be suffered*."

This Constitution was framed in August, 1776, and re-enacts the Declaration of Independence, proclaimed a few weeks previous.

NORTH CAROLINA.—"*Declaration of Rights.*" "That all political power is *vested in* and *derived from* the PEOPLE ONLY." "That *no man or set of men* are entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or *privileges* from the community, but in consideration of public services." "That freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of *liberty* and *therefore* ought never to be restrained." "That ALL MEN have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences." "That a frequent recurrence to *fundamental principles* is absolutely necessary to preserve THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY." "That *perpetuities and monopolies* are contrary to the genius of a FREE STATE, and OUGHT NOT TO BE ALLOWED."

Plainly implying that North Carolina is to be regarded a "*free State*." The Constitution contains no establishment or recognition of Slavery, and confers no authority on the Legislature to establish it. On the contrary, it explicitly declares (Art. 44) "That the Declaration of Rights is hereby declared to be a part of the Constitution of this State, and ought never to be violated, on any *pretence whatever*."

How, then, can there be any legal validity in those remarkably rigid statutes of North Carolina, by which not only "monopolies" and "perpetuities" are guarded, but rights of conscience violated, slaves forbidden to read the Bible, and all colored men, bond or free, forbidden to preach the Gospel?

VIRGINIA.—"*All men* are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights"—"namely, the enjoyment of life and *liberty*, with the means of acquiring and possessing *property*, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and *safety*."

So much for the Constitutions of four of the original States, still retaining Slavery. In three of them, the terms employed are quite as full and emphatic against Slavery as in the Constitution of Massachusetts. In the other, they are scarcely less so. Let us now look at the Constitution of one of the newer slave States.

TENNESSEE.—"*Declaration of Rights.*"—"That all power is inherent IN THE PEOPLE, and all FREE Governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness; for the advancement of *these ends* they have, AT ALL TIMES, an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, REFORM, or ABOLISH, the Government they live under, IN SUCH MANNER *as they may think proper*."

This right of "THE PEOPLE" of Kentucky includes, of course, the rights of the "people of color," bond and free! Rather "incendiary." But read further:

"ALL MEN have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences." "That the PEOPLE shall be secure in their PERSONS, house, papers, and possessions, from unreasonable searches and SEIZURES." "That perpetuities and *monopolies* are contrary to the genius of a *free State*, and *ought not to be allowed*," &c., &c.

If Slavery can be *legalized* under Constitutions like these, the utility of Constitutions, as a means of restricting the despotism of legislation and securing freedom, might as well be abandoned first as last. Constitutional Governments, in such a case, become a farce.

I do not say that all the Constitutions of slave States compare with these. But I do say that Slavery cannot legally exist under such State Constitutions. Some of the States have changed their Constitutions since 1789. But I challenge the proof that, *at that period*, there was a single State whose Constitution authorized the Legislature to establish Slavery.

WILLIAM GOODELL.

* This Constitution of Delaware was adopted in 1792, *after* the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and after the judicial decision in Massachusetts, declaring Slavery inconsistent with a Constitution of precisely the same character.

CONGRESS.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

Senate, Tuesday, June 27, 1854.

A few petitions were presented.

Mr. Hamlin reported a bill making Fronteras, in Texas, a port of delivery; and the same was considered and passed.

A bill creating an additional collection district in California was considered and passed.

On motion by Mr. Pearce, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill directing a re-examination and adjustment of the accounts between the State of Maryland and the United States, respecting interest on advances made by the said State.

After some explanation, the bill was passed—yeas 36, nays 7.

On motion by Mr. Adams, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill changing the day for the annual meeting of Congress, from the first day of December to the first day of November.

Mr. Walker moved to amend the bill by striking out November, and inserting October.

The bill was opposed by Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Benjamin, Stuart, and Pratt, and supported by Messrs. Badger and Douglas.

No question was taken when this report closed.

House of Representatives, June 27, 1854.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Treasury Department, giving estimates of certain extra appropriations required for light-houses in process of erection on the coast of the Pacific, amounting to $59,434; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Harris, of Mississippi, proposed a resolution, asking the President of the United States, if not incompatible with the public interest, for any information in his possession on the date of his proclamation, May 31, 1854, respecting the designs of persons in this country to invade Cuba.

Mr. Clingman objected.

Mr. Houston moved a resolution, closing debate on the Treaty Appropriation bill at noon to-morrow. He wished to get through with the business, and would on Monday next move to close the session on the 31st of July.

Mr. Haven said, that if gentlemen were not willing to call for the Executive's instructions and diplomatic correspondence, (which had been printed for the use of the Senate,) he saw no necessity for continuing the debate a moment. No one doubted the power of the House to vote the appropriation asked; and no one in the House had any adequate data upon which to discuss the question of expediency.

Mr. Houston demanded the previous question.

Mr. Campbell demanded the yeas and nays; which were ordered, and resulted, 94 to 58.

Mr. Jones, of Pennsylvania, supported the bill in an elaborate argument, chiefly in response to the argument of Mr. Benton yesterday.

Mr. Haven said Mr. Jones had fully assumed the constitutional power of the House to give or to withhold the appropriation, and based the question of expediency chiefly upon our getting rid of the 11th article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. He affirmed that we were under no obligation to indemnify Mexico for anything done by the Indians to the people of Mexico.

Gentlemen had pressed the present Treaty because of our assumed responsibility for indemnity; but he disputed its fairness.

Mr. Haven contended that the correspondence in the case ought to be before the House.

Mr. Houston said, that if Mr. Haven or others had desired the correspondence, they could have got it.

Mr. Haven was glad to know that Mr. Houston was disposed to put himself right on this subject; but no such opportunity had been afforded. He admonished gentlemen that it would be well for them to hush up mischievous rumors, by making a full exhibit of the case as it really was. Indemnities for Sloo and Garay were rumored to have been bargained for in the negotiation.

Mr. Beecck asked how the documents in the case could reveal informal instructions given?

Mr. Haven said the rumors were to the effect that the ostensible negotiation on our side had required outside advices to be put on record.

[Mr. Bayly, of Virginia, frequently interrupted Mr. Haven, and an interesting colloquy passed between them.]

Mr. Haven concluded by making a powerful appeal to the friends of the Administration to make public all the documents in the case, before exforting a vote from the House.

Mr. Phillips followed, and spoke at length in support of the bill and its immediate passage.

Senate, Wednesday, June 28, 1854.

A few petitions were presented.

Mr. Pettit spoke for over half an hour, in personal explanation. He said that on Monday he had made some remarks on the extraordinary avowal made by the Senator from Massachusetts, that he recognised no obligation to obey the Constitution which he had sworn to support. In the report of those remarks, as published in the *Globe* of Tuesday morning, there appeared in his remarks a statement that Mr. Sumner had said:

"I said, I recognise no obligation in the Constitution to bind me to help to reduce a man to slavery."

These remarks, which the report as published in the *Globe* attributed to Mr. Sumner, he (Mr. P.) declared were never made in the Senate, and, if they had been made, were false, and would have been so branded at the time.

Mr. Sumner. I call the Senator to order. The remarks in the report, attributed to me, were uttered by me, as reported.

Mr. Pettit. I will prove, in the very teeth of his statement, that it is false.

[Cries of "Order, order."]

Mr. Pettit then proceeded to show that the remarks could not have been made, because Mr. Sumner had not the floor to make them; that if uttered in his seat, they ought not to have been reported, for he had not heard them, and could not have replied to them. He contended that Mr. S., after the adjournment of the Senate, visited the reporter for the *Globe*, and interpolated these remarks, which he had never uttered. He had seen the remarks in the proof sheets of his own speech, and had stricken them out, because they appeared there in falsification of the record. Yet the publisher of the *Globe* had insisted upon putting them in. He read a letter from Mr. Sutton, of the *Globe*, to the effect that the remarks complained of were not originally reported as published; but Mr. Sumner had revised them, and put them in their present shape. He further considered the remarks of Mr. Sumner, and condemned them in strong and denunciatory language.

Mr. Sumner said that he would repeat, that the remarks as published were uttered substantially as reported. He had made the remarks in his seat, and did not expect it would have reached the reporter's ear. Upon revising his own remarks, he was informed that there were some sentences of his which appeared in the report of the speech of the Senator from Indiana. They were shown to him. He told the reporter that they had not been heard exactly as they were spoken; he repeated them to the reporter as he had actually uttered them, and the reporter wrote them down. He knew nothing further of the matter. As to all else said by the Senator from Indiana, he had nothing whatever to say. The matter then dropped.

On motion by Mr. Stuart, the Senate took up the bill granting land to the Territory of Minnesota to aid in the construction of a railroad in that Territory.

And the same was read a third time, and passed.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the motion to refer to the Committee on the Judiciary the memorial from Boston, praying the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law.

Mr. Dixon addressed the Senate at length, against the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law, in defence of that law, and in declaring his total disconnection with the Whig party of the North, which was becoming abolitionized.

Mr. Mallory and Mr. Clay followed, denouncing, in strong terms, the language imputed to Mr. Sumner, of denying any obligation upon him to execute the Constitution in returning a fugitive to slavery.

Mr. Sumner commenced at a little after two, in a most fervent and eloquent manner, a powerful reply to the abuse thrown upon him, and in defence of his position in opposition to the Fugitive Slave Law. He placed himself on the broad ground taken by General Jackson, that each public officer who takes an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, swears to support it as he understands it, and not as others understand it.

No Senator dissented from this doctrine. He could not be expected to understand the Constitution as the Senator from South Carolina, who understood it as including a whole host of bloodhounds, pawing to get loose their hinder parts.

He is still speaking.

House of Representatives, June 28, 1854.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the War Department, transmitting, in response to a resolution of the House of 20th June, a copy of Fuller's Report of the Survey of the Ohio River. Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

The Speaker announced the business before the House to be the bill to provide a weekly mail service between the Atlantic ports and San Francisco.

Mr. Skelton, by consent, introduced a bill for the better protection of life and property on the coast of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

Messrs. Cobb, Haven, McDougal, McMullen, Olds, Chamberlain, and Mace, debated the motion to reconsider the vote ordering the California mail bill to be read a third time. [This motion was made for the purpose of amending the bill, and the debate took in its scope, to some extent, the amendments proposed, which, however, were not important.]

The vote was reconsidered, and the amendments adopted.

Upon the question, "Shall the bill be read a third time?"

The yeas and nays being called for,

Mr. Bridges moved to lay the bill on the table; upon which motion the yeas and nays were ordered, and the result was—yeas 84, nays 70.

Mr. McDougal moved to reconsider the vote.

Mr. Letcher moved to lay that motion on the table.

Mr. McDougal moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Letcher's motion was decided in the affirmative—yeas 79, nays 48. So the bill may be regarded as defeated.

[This bill would authorize the Postmaster General to contract with the lowest and best bidder, after the usual advertisement, for the transportation of the mails to and from New-York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore, and from New Orleans to San Francisco, by the most expeditious practicable route; the service to be performed semi-monthly, and at such times, as, in connexion with other mail service, as at present, will secure as near as practicable, a weekly mail, each way, between the points designated; the entire cost of such service not to exceed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum.]

On motion of Mr. Phelps, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. Olds in the chair.)

The consideration of the ten million appropriation bill was then resumed.

Mr. Jones withdrew his motion to strike out the enacting clause.

Mr. Houston addressed the House, first causing to be read by the Clerk, a resolution adopted by Congress in 1796, as expressive of his views on the duty of the House.

He responded to the remarks of Messrs. Benton, Haven and Peckham, relative to the absence of documents, and alleged that they had not made a call for such information when they could have done so.

Mr. Haven replied, that when the bill was brought up, Mr. Houston, by his own motion, made a call for correspondence impossible.

Mr. Houston proceeded at length, refusing to yield the floor to the opponents of the pending measure.

The House bill to change the annual meeting of Congress to the first Monday in November was rejected in the Senate—yeas 15, nays 33.

In the House, yesterday, Mr. Richardson denounced in severe terms the author and publishers of a despatch from this city, accusing him of fraudulently retaining the "Clayton amendment" in the Kansas-Nebraska bill.

The debate on the Ten Million Appropriation continued until eight o'clock in the evening, when the Committee rose, and the House adjourned.

Senate, Thursday, June 29, 1854.

Mr. Fessenden presented a petition from New Hampshire, praying for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Act. He said this memorial was not open to the objections, on the score of locality, which had been urged against the Boston memorial. This was signed by all the legal voters of the town of Milford, New Hampshire, the birthplace of the President. Referred.

Mr. Sumner presented the memorial of the men of the town of Pepperel, Massachusetts, praying the repeal of the same unrighteous, inhuman, and barbarous, act. This memorial came from the home of Prescott, who commanded at Bunker Hill. The gentleman who sent it to him signed himself a Hunker Democrat of the olden time. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Gwin, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to establish a line of steamers between San Francisco and Shanghai, via the Sandwich Islands and Japan.

Mr. Seward addressed the Senate in support of the bill; after which, it was postponed.

The bill appropriating $10,000,000, to carry out the treaty with Mexico, was received from the House.

Mr. Hunter moved to proceed to the consideration of the said bill.

Mr. Shields demanded an Executive session on that motion; which was conceded, and the doors were closed.

House of Representatives, June 29, 1854.

Mr. Faulkner, after a brief explanation concerning the condition of the business before the Military Affairs Committee, asked leave to move to make the bills for the improvement of the condition of the army the special order for the 8th of July, proximo.

But objection being made, leave was not granted.

Mr. Mace asked leave to make a personal explanation, which, he remarked, was due to himself and Mr. Richardson, of Illinois; and leave being granted, Mr. M. proceeded to explain that he was in no way responsible for a dispatch to the New York *Times*, accusing Mr. Richardson of perpetrating frauds in incorporating provisions in the Nebraska bill, &c.

The bill to change the postage rates was then taken up.

Mr. Olds, withdrawing the pending motion to refer it, offered an amendment designed to prevent speculation in post office stamps and franked envelopes, addressed the House in favor of the bill.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, addressed the House against the clause in the bill forbidding the payment of postage in the current coin of the country.

The bill was further debated by Mr. Jones of Louisiana, Sage, and Washburne of Illinois.

Mr. Ready moved to lay the bill on the table.

But the question being on agreeing to the amendment of Mr. Olds, it was agreed to; and then, as amended, the said bill was ordered to its third reading before our report went to press.

Yesterday, after Mr. Sumner had closed his triumphant vindication, Mr. Butler replied; after which, the memorial was referred.

In the House, yesterday, after the close of Mr. Houston's speech, and a short discussion under the five minutes rule, the bill appropriating $10,000,000 for the Gadsden Treaty was passed—yeas 103, nays 62—and the House adjourned.

MARRIAGE.

At Washington, Pa., on Wednesday morning, the 21st inst., by the Rev. James Brownson, NICHOLAS K. WADE, of Pittsburgh, to ROMAINE LE MOYNE, daughter of Dr. F. S. Le Moyne, of Washington, Pa.

INQUIRIES CONCERNING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Letters have reached us from various States, inquiring concerning the action of members on the Nebraska Bill. We must be excused from answering these letters privately. What we have to say, we prefer to say openly.

One of those letters concerned Mr. Trout. We find the following card from this gentleman, in the Pittsburg *Gazette*:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, May 22, 1854.

SIR: In your paper of the 17th inst. I find the following, viz: "The Representatives from the Free States named below voted, on Monday week, to take up the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, with a view to urge its immediate passage," and among the number I find my name recorded.

Believing that you would not willingly misrepresent me, and that you have consigned me to "*infamy*" more through inadvertence than a knowledge of the facts, I have thought proper to put you right on that subject.

It is true that I voted to go into Committee of the Whole on the day referred to, but *it is not true* that I "voted to take up the bill." On the contrary, I voted to lay Mr. Richardson's motion "to take up" on the table, I voted uniformly *against* "laying aside" the several bills on the calendar to reach the Nebraska bill; and when the Nebraska bill was reached, *I voted to lay it aside*, and *against* "taking it up," and I voted to restore the calendar to its original order. In short, during the thirty-six-hour session I voted and acted with the opponents of the bill on all important issues.

The mere vote of going into Committee of the Whole cannot, by any fair rule of construction, be said to favor the passage of the bill, for the House goes into Committee of the Whole almost every day, and it would have been in order at any time, when so in Committee, for the friends of the bill to move to take it up and consider it.

I have always been and still am opposed to the bill, and neither the promises of friends or the menaces of enemies can ever induce me to vote for it in its present shape, and none know this fact better than your own Representatives.

These things being so, it is difficult to imagine why you labor so hard to put me in the wrong.

All I claim is to be fairly quoted and placed right on the record, and my constituents can then judge for themselves. This I have a right to; I ask nothing more, and since you have given your version of the case, I hope you will give mine also. M. C. TROUT.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

Well—the Nebraska Bill is passed. Mr. Trout, according to his own showing, opposed it, and we have no reason to question his record, as quoted by himself.

The question now, is not, what he *did*, but what he *intends to do*? Is he one of the Anti-Nebraska members who, the *Star* asserts, disapprove of the true, calm, cogent address by the real opponents of the bill? Will he vote two hundred and fifty millions of dollars for the purchase of Cuba, with its half million slaves? Is he, like some others who voted against the Nebraska Bill, determined now to become acquiescent? Does he, like the Anti-Nebraska editor of the Maine *Age*, stand by the legislation of 1850, and the Baltimore platform, which announced it as a finality? Will he work and vote against any Slave Territory, and any more slave States?

Let Mr. Trout's constituents, let the constituents of every other member who voted against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, not only understand how he voted on that question—a question now passed—but how he will vote on other questions involving still more deeply the rights and interests of the free States.

LETTER OF GERRIT SMITH.

WASHINGTON, *June* 27, 1854.

To my Constituents:

My nomination to Congress alarmed me greatly, because I believed, that it would result in my election. To separate myself from my large private business, for so long a time; and to war for so long a time, against the strong habits formed in my deeply secluded life; seemed to be well-nigh impossible.

My election having taken place, I concluded, that I must serve you, during the first session of my term. Not to speak of other reasons for such service, there was, at least, so much due to you, in requital for your generous forgetfulness of party obligations, in electing me. I could not do less, and, yet, make a decent return for the respect and partiality you had shown me.

I did not, until within a few weeks, *fully* decide not to return to Congress, at the next session. I could not know, but that something unforeseen might demand such return. I, now, feel at liberty to announce my purpose to resign my seat in Congress, at the close of the present session. Why I make the annunciation so early is, that you may have ample time to look around you for my successor.

I resign my seat the more freely, because I do not thereby impose any tax upon your time. You will fill the vacancy, at the General Election. Indeed, I should have been entirely unwilling to put you to the pains of holding a special election. GERRIT SMITH.

FROM A PIONEER.

MINNESOTA, *June* 10, 1854.

To the Editor of the National Era:

Having come to Minnesota for the purpose of making a claim and a home, and being poor, as a majority are who go to a new country, and having had several years' experience in Western life, allow me to tell our servants in Congress our wants:

1st. We want three or five years' pre-emption, to pay for our lands. With one year's pre-emption we are obliged to pay for our lands before we can produce anything to spare, as it is well known that for the first year and a half we must be on expense. I think most of the settlers would be satisfied with a bill to that effect, instead of one granting lands free of cost. Certainly the land business should pay its own expenses.

Under the present system, we are obliged to go to speculators, and get them to enter our lands for us, and allow them from 25 to 90 per cent. on their money. This enormous interest accumulates so rapidly, that one half the settlers are obliged to sell their lands to pay for them. Government should give us this time, which we have to purchase so dearly of speculators; and it would lose nothing in the end by the operation. Let us have Mason's Land Bill, granting five years' time or pre-emption, or something like it, before the close of the present Congress.

2d. We want one hundred post offices established immediately.

The mail route from Dubuque to St. Paul, via Elcador, Decorah, Chatfield, and Oronoco, should be established now, so that the close of navigation will not close the mails. The country is fast settling on this route, and already large settlements are thirty miles from this post office.

3d. We want the public land sales abolished. Government gains little or nothing by putting the lands up at auction, while it is a great inconvenience and nuisance to actual settlers. We are obliged to attend for days and weeks at the place of sale, and if by chance we have found a choice spot, we are liable to lose it by the overbidding of some speculator who has a larger purse than we.

Please tell our servants in Congress these things, and see if they cannot do something for us. Yours, P. F. THURBER.

From the Salem (Ohio) Homestead Journal.

KANSAS AND SLAVERY.

Since the Plan for Freedom, a part of which we published a few weeks ago, has been set in motion in Massachusetts and New York, the South have endeavored to organize a similar company, and, as they choose to term it, "beat the Abolitionists, at their own game." Their prime object is, to first settle Kansas with slaveholders, and, when that Territory is well secured, and Slavery firmly rooted in its soil, they will then, if need be, turn their attention to Nebraska. The slaveholders are on the alert, and, although they have, by the basest and most dishonorable treachery, secured the *privilege* of taking their human chattels to these Territories, they will not consider their victory complete until involuntary servitude becomes a "fixed fact" in the Constitution of Nebraska and Kansas, but more especially the latter. And when this purpose is once achieved, then, doubtless, other aggressions on free soil will be contemplated by the Slave Power. The Ordinance of 1787, by which Ohio and the Northwest were *forever* declared free from the loathing curse, will be the next to receive the attacks of the enemy. FOREVER, with the South, means only as long as *they* please.

Several meetings, for the purpose of organizing companies of slaveholders to settle Kansas, have already been held in Missouri.

LITERARY NOTICES.

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE REVOLUTION. By R. W. Gibben, M. D., Columbia, S. C.

A volume of three hundred pages, containing letters and papers relating to the contest for liberty during the last three years of the Revolutionary War, chiefly in South Carolina. The correspondence is mainly carried on by Greene, Marion, Sumter, and Rutledge, but a good many interesting letters that passed between the American and British officers are presented.

In this, as in all works of the class, there is a great deal of chaff, but there is enough wheat to pay for the trouble of sifting it out. It is a real pleasure, too, to go to the sources of History and see how much of our compiled information is correct. Writers of different parties on the war against Mexico would prepare narratives very differently colored, and suggesting quite opposite opinions, although they would draw their materials from the same sources. He who would not take opinions on trust, or at second-hand, will always be glad to avail himself of a faithful and full documentary history.

That before us is, of course, merely fragmentary; but it contains some of the finest specimens of letter-writing, from Gen. Greene, that we have ever seen from any pen.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE OF EXPLORATIONS AND INCIDENTS. By John Russell Bartlett. In 2 vols. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale by R. Farnham, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Bartlett was appointed by Gen. Taylor, in June, 1850, United States Commissioner, to run the boundary line, in conjunction with the Mexican Commissioner, between this country and Mexico. In that year, and in 1851, 1852, and 1853, he travelled extensively through Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua; and these two large handsomely printed volumes, embellished with maps and illustrations, contain a Narrative of his explorations during that time, and of the incidents of his journeyings; and much valuable information concerning the regions he traversed—the soil, climate, mineral resources, animal and vegetable products, and various tribes of savages. It is written without exaggeration, generally in a simple, easy style, and, bating some excess of detail, is very interesting.

NEW BOOKS.

Our attention has been so exclusively occupied with other than literary matters, for some time past, that we have not been able to notice, in order, several new books which have been laid on our table. At present, we can only speak of two or three recent publications of Ticknor & Co.

"POEMS AND PARODIES," is the title of a collection of the poetical writings of Phebe Carey, who needs no introduction to the readers of the *Era*. There is true poetry in this volume—pure, womanly, and sweetly musical utterances of the heart as well as the intellect. Somewhat less imaginative and fanciful than her sister Alice, the writer is truer to nature and the actual experiences of life. There is an intense reality of feeling in some of her lyrics, which is almost painful, and which singularly contrasts with what we know of her sunny-hearted and happy girlhood. Her Parodies have a great deal of characteristic clearness and wit; but, with the exception of "Martha Hopkins"—a perfect gem of a ballad—are scarcely worthy of the place they occupy in connection with the serious beauty of the original poems.

"WEKSLEY," a story without a moral, is, we think, the most successful attempt which has yet been made to portray the peculiar trials of New England society of the past generation. The old-school Clergyman and his man Jasper are evidently pictures from life, and are drawn with skill, truthfulness, and genial humor. It seems to us the most readable book of the kind which has appeared since Hawthorne's Blithdale Romance. The authorship is unacknowledged, but rumor ascribes it to Edmund Quincy, Esq., of Boston.

"ATHERTON, AND OTHER TALES," by Mary Russel Mitford, is an original work by the author of "Our Village," and every way equal to those charming rural pictures of merry England. Indeed, we are inclined to rank Atherton, as a work of art, higher than any previous production of the writer. It is a faultless bit of romance, the interest of which never flags for a moment. The book is elegantly printed, and is made doubly valuable by a fine engraving of the author—a beautiful, kindly face, which Time has only touched lightly and lovingly—our very ideal of a true English gentlewoman. J. G. W.

THE SLAVE-OWNER'S MODE OF TEACHING SLAVES.—The following "catechism for slaves" is clipped from the *Southern Episcopalian*, a reputable religious monthly magazine, published at Charleston, S. C. It is taken from the April number, 1854:

What keeps *snakes* and all bad things from hurting you? *Answer.* God does.

Who gave you a master and mistress? *God gave them to me.*

Who says that you must obey them? *God says that I must.*

What book tells you these things? The Bible.

How does God do all His work? He always does it right.

Does God love to work? Yes, God is always at work.

Do the good angels work? Yes, they love to please God.

What does God say about your work? *He that does not work, shall not eat.*

Did Adam and Eve have to work? Yes, they were to keep the garden.

Was it hard to keep that garden? No, it was very easy.

What makes the crops so hard to grow? Sin makes it.

What makes you lazy? My own wicked heart.

How do you know your heart is wicked? I feel it every day.

What teaches you so many wicked things? The Devil.

Must you let the Devil teach you? No, I must not."

The Concord (N. H.) *Independent Democrat* says:

"The humor of the questions and answers about work—particularly this: 'What does God say about work? He that will not work, shall not eat'—will be appreciated, when we remember that this is the religious instruction provided, for those who do all the *hard working*, by those who do all the *good eating*. Who will not rejoice that those poor slaves are blessed with the consolations of *such* Gospel light? Who will not thank God for revivals, which bring those benighted children of Africa under the sanctifying influences of such a catechism as the above?"

A large deposite of bituminous coal has been discovered in Halifax county, Virginia.

YES: HEAR! THINK!! ACT!!!

E. G. HOLMES & CO., Cincinnati, Ohio, are publishing a book, containing the information advertised in this paper by M. J. Cook. It is a 12mo volume of ninety-six pages, and will be sent by mail, post paid, for twenty-five cents, or nine postage stamps. June 21.

MINNESOTA LAND AGENCY.

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May 26. St. Anthony Falls, Minnesota.

DR. WESSELHOEFT'S WATER CURE.

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ALL rumors to the contrary, continues to receive patients, for whose recovery and comfort the undersigned pledge themselves to spare no pains, so that they may maintain the fame of the establishment. Its provisions for hydropathic purposes are unrivalled, and its supply of pure, soft water is abundant, cool, and palatable at all seasons, without the use of ice.

DR. E. I. LEWENTHAL, Resident Physician.
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March 24.

TRAVELLING AGENTS WANTED,

TO obtain subscribers for "Woodworth's Youth's Cabinet," decidedly the most popular magazine for young people in America. Price only $1. The work has 48 pages in each number, is liberally illustrated with engravings, and filled with just such reading as is best adapted to entertain and instruct the youthful reader.

A new volume begins with the *July number*, which will be sent to any person desirous of examining the work. Agents, applying with satisfactory references, will be liberally dealt with. Address by letter, or apply in person, to the publisher,

D. A. WOODWORTH,
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Lays of Liberty;
OR,
VERSES FOR THE TIMES.

THIS is the title of a small volume of choice Anti-Slavery verses, collected from various sources, and put into one little volume of fifty-four pages, handsomely printed, and bound in cloth. Published by BELA MARSH,
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NEW LADIES' FASHION BOOK.

FRANK LESLIE'S *Ladies' Gazette* of Paris, London, and New York Fashions.* Published on the first of every month, containing all the Newest Fashions in every department of Ladies' and Children's Costume, Jewelry, Ornaments, Furniture, &c. The size is large quarto, being twice the size of the Paris Fashion Books, is printed on superb paper of the finest manufacture, and profusely illustrated with over *One Hundred Engravings;* in addition to which, each part will contain a splendid *Colored Plate*, alone worth more than the price charged for the whole part. Arrangements have been completed in Paris, whereby the Newest Fashions will appear in this work before the Paris Fashion Books are received by the steamer. No. 1 was issued on January 1st, 1854.

It is by far the best Fashion Book issued in this country. We cordially recommend it.—*N. Y. Daily Times.* Takes the highest rank among all journals of its class.—*N. Y. Tribune.* This is a superb work.—*Boston Transcript.* It is the best record of the fashions now published.—*Sunday Times, Philadelphia.* It contains all the newest fashions, and a colored plate of great beauty.—*Home Journal.*

One copy, one year, $3; two do., $5; four do., $9. One copy of the Gazette, and one copy of Harper's, Putnam's, or Graham's Magazines, one year, $5.

Office No. 6 John street, and all Booksellers in the United States and Canadas. March 24.

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THE best and most improved Pianos and Melodeons in the world. T. Gilbert & Co.'s World's Fair Premium Pianos, with or without the Ælian, and with iron frames and circular scales. The merits of these instruments are too well known to need further commendation. Gilbert's Boudoir Pianos, an elegant instrument for small rooms. Hallet & Cumston's Pianos, of the old established firm of Hallet & Co. Mr. W. being sole agent for all the above Pianos, he can offer them lower than any other house in the United States. Horace Waters's Pianos, manufactured expressly for him, having great power of tone and elasticity of touch. Pianos of other make. In a word, 333 Broadway is one of the largest depots for Pianos in the world, affording an opportunity for selections not to be had anywhere else on the American continent. Second-hand Pianos at great bargains. Price from $60 to $175.

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THIS well-known establishment is still carried on under the personal superintendence of the undersigned, by whom all the necessary drawings, documents, and specifications, for Patents, Caveats, Designs, Foreign Patents, &c., are prepared with the utmost fidelity and despatch, on very moderate terms.

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