WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1854.

RENEWALS AND NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS.—WHO RESPONDS!

The time has come when we must call upon subscribers whose terms have expired and are about expiring, to renew; and, while doing so, to send new names with their own. The first half of the present volume of the *Era* closed with the month of June. We have sent out a special request to our voluntary agents, to join in a determined and vigorous effort to enlarge our list. The time is auspicious. People are aroused on the subject of Slavery, and need information. Only the first great triumph of the Slave Power has been won. Further and more dangerous aggressions are meditated. The Anti-Slavery sentiment of the country needs organization. To promote the great cause of Union for the sake of Freedom, the most active efforts ought now to be made, to increase the circulation of newspapers opposed to Slavery.

The *Era* needs a special movement in its favor. Some of its best agents during the last twelve months have diverted their labors to the establishment of local Anti-Slavery papers. We do not complain of this, but could they not now spare a few weeks to the *Era*, which has no *local* support, and must depend alone upon the general interest felt in the vigorous maintenance of such a paper at the seat of Government? In brief terms, let us say that, should they succeed in adding to our Weekly list six thousand subscribers, it would not repay the loss we have sustained in undertaking to carry on a *Daily Era*, although it would enable us to relieve ourselves from the embarrassments in which that has involved us.

Let every agent use his best exertions for the paper. Let every subscriber whose time is about to expire, renew promptly, and send us at least one new name. We reprint our Terms, and shall keep them standing, as a guide to the efforts of our friends:

TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ERA.

One copy, 1 year, $2 — One copy, 6 months, $1
Three copies, do., 5 — Five copies, do., 5
Ten copies, do., 15 — Ten copies, do., 8

Voluntary agents are entitled to retain 50 cents commission on each new yearly, and 25 cents on each new semi-yearly, subscriber, except in the case of clubs. Twenty-five cents is the commission on the *renewal* of an old subscriber.

A club of three subscribers (one of whom may be an *old* one) at $5, will entitle the person making it up to a copy of the *Era* three months; a club of five (two of whom may be *old* ones) at $8, to a copy for six months; a club of ten (five of whom may be *old* ones) at $15, to a copy for one year.

Money to be forwarded, by *mail*, at *my risk*. Large amounts may be remitted in drafts or certificates of deposit. G. BAILEY.

Washington, D. C., 1854.

EMIGRANT AID SOCIETIES. — We receive many communications asking for particular information in regard to these societies. When the name and post office of the correspondent are given, we send them to those whose duty it is to give such information by means of letters and circulars. This is the only judicious and efficient means of responding to such inquiries.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The result of the North Carolina election is decidedly "Democratic." It seems that Mr. Badger has made nothing by his zealous support of the Nebraska-Kansas bill. On the contrary, as we apprehended, he has defeated his party in the State, and himself, by dissolving the last link which bound it to the national organization. After an acknowledged dissolution of the connection with Northern Whigs, individuals, even those sympathizing with Mr. Badger, as a matter of course, began to ask themselves what was the use of keeping up a the Administration, on the most vital issue of the day, was an additional reason for abandoning all opposition.

The following is the result, as nearly as is yet ascertained, of the election:

"*Raleigh, August* 12.— Unofficial returns from the whole State have been received. Bragg's (Dem.) majority over Dockery, (Whig,) is 2,025. The Senate, composed of fifty members, has 20 Democrats to 20 Whigs. The House, composed of 120 members, has 65 Democrats to 55 Whigs—making 20 Democratic majority on joint ballot."

Mr. Badger's term expires on the 4th of March, and the place of Mr. Mangum is still vacant; so there are two places in the Senate to fill. Mr. Dobbin, the Secretary of the Navy, is one of the most popular Democrats in the State, if not the favorite; and, having a place to resign, his chances are good for the long term. The Democratic majority is too strong to leave Mr. Clingman any hope. G.

☞ The Boston *Commonwealth*, in noticing Mr. Giddings's late address, says that the next House of Representatives, "we hope and believe, is to contain more Anti-Slavery men than any other previous Congress, and 'old Giddings' ought to be there to see and rejoice in the fact."

☞ The New York Whig State Convention is to assemble on Wednesday, the 20th of September, at Syracuse, for the purpose of nominating candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Canal Commissioner, and State Prison Inspector.

☞ The U. S. ship Cyane arrived at the Charlestown, Massachusetts, Navy Yard, on the 13th instant, bringing as a passenger Mr. Fabens, the United States Commercial Agent at Greytown.

IOWA.—The partial returns from this State indicate the success of the opposition to the present Administration. A Governor and members of Congress have been elected.

☞ Schuyler Colfax, Esq., editor of the *South Bend* (Ind.) *Register*, has been nominated for Congress by the Whigs of his State.

☞ It is said that Francis Burt, of South Carolina, will not accept the Governorship of Nebraska.

☞ Commodore Downs, United States Navy, died at Boston on the 11th inst.

HEALTH OF WASHINGTON.—There were 184 deaths in Washington city last month—150 white, and 34 colored persons; 101 were under five years of age. Died of consumption 13; cholera infantum 33; cholera morbus 2; diarrhœa 9; dysentery 11; typhoid fever 9; sun stroke 5; and none of cholera.

At a Convention of the Whigs of the first Congressional district of Vermont, held at Middlebury, on the 1st instant, Mr. Meacham was nominated for re-election to Congress.

LIBERAL AND PATRIOTIC SENTIMENTS!—The Lynchburg (Va.) *Republican* says:

"It is not the foreign population that we have to fear in our contest with abolitionism; it is the native-born New Englander, that is by nature an abolitionist. He is raised upon it, and it can't be gotten out of him. A Know-Nothing Southern society against the emigration of Yankee abolitionists into our midst would be a more sensible move, and meet with greater approbation in the South."

THE ARMORY QUESTION.—The speech of Mr. Banks, in reply to Mr. Keitt and others, on the superintendency of the armories, is highly spoken of. He defended the mechanic with great ability. He was in earlier years an operative in a machine shop, and has a good right to speak for that class of our citizens. *Sentinel.*

Washington c.

STATISTICS OF IDIOCY, INSANITY, AND PAUPERISM.

The newspapers and politicians of the Pro-Slavery school had the temerity, some years ago, to challenge a comparison of the slave with the free States, as regards wealth and general prosperity. They have been routed and driven from that position, so completely, by the incontestable facts of the Census, that they no longer venture to contest the matter. They now content themselves with making garbled and unfounded statements relative to criminal and church statistics, which we have already set correctly before the public, or in reference to the number of idiots, lunatics, and paupers. On this head, we find the following statement going the rounds of the Southern press:

Population of Massachusetts - -	993,399
Population of Tennessee - -	1,032,625
Tennessee excess of inabitants -	39,236
Pauperism.	
Massachusetts has (paupers) -	5,549
Tennessee - - - - - -	531
Excess in Massachusetts - -	4,958

Massachusetts, with 39,226 inhabitants less than Tennessee, has over eight times as many paupers.

Insane.	
Massachusetts has - - - -	1,647
Tennessee - - - - - -	478
Excess of Massachusetts - -	1,169

This partial comparison is accompanied with the usual glorifications over the moral superiority of the South to the North, when it only proves that Massachusetts has been at greater pains to provide for the destitute classes than Tennessee. But the latter State being some six times as large as Massachusetts, and with little more population, for the most part engaged in agriculture, must of course be better supplied with the mere necessaries of life than the former. This is particularly true in reference to fuel and clothing, owing to the milder climate of Tennessee. Still, we will proceed to show, from a comparison of other Northern and Southern States, that the great contrast between Massachusetts and Tennessee, as to the number of paupers, is owing to the better provision for that class by the former State. There can be no doubt that this is the true secret of the matter in regard to lunatics and idiots. Miss Dix, who has made a personal exploration of the Southern and Western States, in which the claims of these unfortunates have been greatly neglected, invariably made reports to their Legislatures which astonished every one by the number of lunatics whom she found scattered over the country, often without any public provision for their necessities. It is not probable that any approach has yet been made to the truth in this matter, in any Southern or Western State, while in Massachusetts the greatest pains and expense have been incurred, in order to provide for the physical wants, and even the education, of idiots and lunatics.

It is a well-known fact, that a large number of lunatics are sent from the South to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and other Northern cities. They have few Lunatic Asylums in the South, the general practice being to confine insane persons in the county jails, unless they or their friends have the means of paying the expense of a residence in a Northern asylum.

We present the following tables, showing the numbers of insane and idiots in the Northern States, including New England, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, the Western free States, and the Southern or slave States:

Northern States - - -	6,062	8,748
Western free States - -	3,046	2,349
Total free - - - -	9,108	11,097
Slave States - - -	6,629	4,491
Total - - - -	15,737	15,588

It will be observed, that in the free States the lunatics are more numerous than the idiots; while in the Southern States, the idiots are in the majority. After making all due allowance for the fact above stated, that Southern lunatics are sent to Northern asylums, there will still, doubtless, remain a larger proportion of insane in the free than the slave States; while it is equally apparent, that the proportion of idiots at the South is greater than at the North. The comparatively greater number of Northern lunatics indicates greater mental activity in that quarter of the Union. This truth we will proceed to illustrate, by showing the very small proportion of lunatics and idiots among the slave population.

In order to show the relative proportions of insane and idiotic belonging to each class of the population, we have condensed the following statement from the Census:

	Insane.	Idiotic.	Ratio of Insane to pop. One to—	Ratio of Idiots to pop. One to—
Whites	14,972	14,257	1,306	1,371
F. colored	341	348	1,394	1,246
Slaves	327	1,182	9,799	2,710

Now, the above table renders it perfectly clear, that if the South may claim mental and moral superiority to the North, on the ground that it possesses a smaller proportion of lunatics and idiots, for a like reason the slaves may claim an unapproachable superiority to all other classes. For while every 1,306 white men number a lunatic, and every 1,371 an idiot among them, the slaves only have a lunatic to every 9,799, and an idiot to every 2,710!

Every man of sense and candor, upon this view of the facts, will perceive the necessity of explaining them as we have done above. It is clear that, as regards the slaves, the returns are grossly defective; and the same is true, to a great extent, of the returns of the white population of the South. But if Southern writers insist on the accuracy of the Census, then on their premises they must admit their inferiority to the slaves.

If lunacy is more prevalent among the Northern people than among the free people of the South, it is for the same reason that there is more lunacy among the freemen of the South than among the slaves, viz: greater mental activity. It will be observed that idiocy is not proportionally so rare as lunacy among slaves; and hence, allowing for great defects in the returns, it is apparent that the proportion of lunatics is exceedingly small in the class which has least occasion to use its brains.

Of the 6,629 idiots in the slave States, 1,182 are slaves, and 210 free colored. Deducting these from the total, we have 5,237 among the white people of the South. The white population of the South numbers 6,151,240; and the ratio of idiots is therefore one to every 1,174 persons. The population of the free States is 13,524,040, of whom 9,108 are idiots; or a ratio of one to 1,484 persons. It is hence clear that the greater insanity of the North is offsetted by the imbecility of the South; and this result is apparent, notwithstanding the imperfect returns from that section.

We now give place to some statistics of pauperism, in which Northern and Southern States are contrasted. They present results as little flattering to the South as the above comparison of Tennessee and Massachusetts is to the latter.

It must be borne in mind that slaves cannot be paupers, but must be supported by their owners, in old age, infancy, sickness, or other disability.

	Free Population.	Native Paupers.	Foreign Paupers.	Total Paupers.
Massach'tts	994,514	4,059	1,490	5,549
Tennessee	763,154	577	14	591
New York	3,097,394	5,755	7,078	12,833
Virginia -	949,133	4,356	102	4,458
Ohio - -	1,980,427	1,254	419	1,673
Kentucky -	771,424	690	87	777
Connecticut	370,792	1,463	281	1,744
S. Carolina	283,523	1,113	180	1,293
Free States	13,524,040	25,100	12,383	37,483
Slave States	6,371,259	11,816	1,054	12,870
Total -	19,895,299	36,916	13,437	50,353

It will be seen that, in the States contrasted above, the result in every instance is favorable to the free States. It would not be fair to compare their total populations, from the fact that the great body of foreigners, a large portion of them in a destitute condition, are landed in the free States.

The comparison of the total free with the total slave States, as regards the native population, shows a nearly equal ratio.

It will be seen that the proportion of native paupers in Virginia is about three times as great as that which exists in New York; in Kentucky, the proportion is greater than in Ohio; and in South Carolina, it is greater than in Connecticut.

Now, will those Southern newspapers which have made the comparison between Massachusetts and Tennessee, have the fairness and honesty to publish the whole truth? Not they! It will not suit their purposes. Garbled or false statements are what they want to gull their readers as to the workings of the Slavery system. G.

THE UNITY-OF-RACE QUESTION.

Professor Agassiz, and perhaps one or two other men of genius and science, have attempted to controvert the Scriptural and popular belief of the common origin of mankind. In doing so, they of course set aside the Mosaic account of the Creation as a fable, and invalidate the authority of the Old Testament. The champions of Slavery have, as might be expected, availed themselves of this theory as a justification of the system, and have palmed off upon the public any number of pamphlets and books, written by execrable scribblers, Northern as well as Southern, all designed as offerings on the altar of slave-driving pride and prejudice. The inexpressible disgust which we feel for creatures of this stamp, particularly those of Northern origin, has induced us to treat their puerile conceits with the contempt they deserve. But it affords us pleasure, nevertheless, to observe that the momentary eclat gained by these literary *fungi* in the South, is passing away. A majority of the advocates of Slavery labor under a wholesome fear of the Devil, at any rate, if they cannot be said to love God; and they are beginning to see that the apostles of the new revelation are leading them into the slippery and dangerous paths of Infidelity. They have therefore set themselves to the task of degrading the negro in an orthodox, Scriptural manner, so that the most pious slave-driver may reconcile his pride, his prejudice, and his injustice, with the dictates of religion. They accordingly pass sentence of condemnation upon the infidel theory of a diversity of races, and set up another, that the negroes are the descendants of Cain, whom the Almighty is represented as saving from destruction during the flood in some miraculous way. This ridiculous subterfuge appears to satisfy the consciences of pious slaveocrats, and affords them a sufficient shield against the darts of religion. There is no warrant in Scripture for the assumption that any of the posterity of Cain survived the flood, unless they had intermarried into the family of Seth, and were represented in the blood of Noah and his family. But this is no affair of ours. If it saves the champions of Slavery from the heartless infidelity of those who attempt to degrade men to the level of monkeys, it will subserve a good end.

It appears to us utterly illogical, on orthodox, Scriptural grounds, to contend that the descendants of Cain, allowing him to have any, or of Ham, are more deserving of the curse of eternal Slavery than those of Adam. There can be no grades of depravity where all are born totally depraved, and equally deserving the Divine vengeance, which is the prevalent doctrine throughout the South. Adam was told that he and his seed should eat bread by the sweat of the face forever; and yet we see our pious brethren of the South eating bread by the sweat of other people's faces—a plain evasion of the curse. Who, then, can blame the descendants of Cain and Ham for evading the curse pronounced against those their ancestors? What makes the case stronger in their favor, is the fact that Adam and Eve were the original offenders, who, by eating the forbidden fruit, "brought death into the world and all our woe;" while Cain and Ham were influenced by the evil example of their ancestors.

The sin of Adam was original. It caused the Fall of man from his state of perfect innocence; while Cain was "born in sin;" and Ham was not only born in sin, but bred up amidst the greatest depravity. They received a curse, with a brand or mark, while Adam and Eve received a curse without a brand; which would have been no brand, because it could have distinguished them from no other class.

We think, therefore, that there is a strong spice of Pharisaical pride in the idea which pious, orthodox champions of Slavery have advanced, that it is perfectly right and proper to trample on and enslave for all time the unfortunate descendants of Cain and Ham. It is not only thanking God that they are not as other men are, but thanking Him that they have been made the instruments of the Divine vengeance upon the colored race. According to these pietists, the curses visited upon Cain and Ham have much to do with the price current of cotton and sugar; and they see no hope for the white men of the South, which is not immediately dependent upon the damnation of the negroes. They believe that negroes may be good enough for the holy company of the Apostles and Martyrs in Heaven, but that they are unworthy to enjoy, in consequence of the sin of their ancestors, the fruits of their own labor, while sojourning in this world! So much for piety and cotton!

The infidel suggestion that the races of men have different origins, allowing it to be true, by no means proves a difference of kinds. The Almighty might have created several different pairs, having the same organization, morally, intellectually, and physically; and diversities of color, hair, and features, adapted to the several climates which man inhabits, cannot destroy the essential unity and identity of the race. We see that the different races of men, the extremes even, as they are generally regarded, will propagate together, and that their issue will go on indefinitely propagating. This shows an identity of organization. It shows that the negro is nearer to the white man than the ass is to the horse, because the mule, the joint product of these animals, is barren.

But it is like reasoning to prove an axiom. The thing is self-evident, that the negro has every claim to manhood, in every respect, if not in as high a degree, that the Caucasian race has. He has a conscience, a faculty of reasoning, of reckoning, of imagination. He reads, writes, makes speeches, buys and sells, and manufactures. In fact, a man must be an unblushing, cold-hearted atheist, as destitute of truth as of goodness, who can deny the humanity of the negro. Or, in charity, we can imagine that bigotry and prejudice may so stupefy an ignorant and imbecile understanding, as to shut out the most self-evident truths.

Allowing that the negro is less intellectual than the Caucasian, does it follow that he should be his slave? Should all men of common minds be the slaves of the few superior minds? Have the more educated, intellectual, and mentally active people of the free States a right to enslave and trample on their Southern brethren, equally endowed by nature, but not equally favored by circumstances? The champions of Slavery must either give an affirmative answer to these questions, or abandon the unchristian doctrine of a superiority of race.

We designed in the beginning of this article to have made some extracts from an article in the Richmond *Enquirer*, in which the writer, quoting Fletcher, a Mississippi author, attempts to show the negro race to be descended from Cain. But our limits to-day compel us to desist. G.

For the National Era.

THE HERMIT OF THE THEBAID.

O, strong, upwelling prayers of faith,
From inmost founts of life ye start—
The spirit's pulse, the vital breath
Of soul and heart!

From pastoral toil, from traffic's din,
Alone, in crowds, at home, abroad,
Unheard of man, ye enter in
The ear of God.

Ye brook no forced and measured tasks,
Nor weary rote nor formal chains;
The simple heart that freely asks
In love, obtains.

For man the living temple is:
The mercy-seat and cherubim,
And all the holy mysteries,
He bears with him.

And most avails the prayer of love,
Which, wordless, shapes itself in deeds,
And wearies Heaven for nought above
Our common needs.

Alone, the Thebaid hermit leaned
At noon-time o'er the sacred word.
Was it an angel or a fiend
Whose voice he heard?

It broke the desert's hush of awe,
A human utterance, sweet and mild;
And, looking up, the hermit saw
A little child.

A child, with wonder-widened eyes,
O'erawed and troubled by the sight
Of hot, red sands and brazen skies
And anchorite.

"What dost thou here, poor man? No shade
Of cool, green dooms, nor grass, nor well,
No corn nor vines." The hermit said:
"With God I dwell.

"Alone with Him in this great calm,
I live not by the outward sense;
My Nile His love, my sheltering palm
His providence."

The child gazed round him. "Does God live
Here only?—where the desert's rim
Is green with corn, at morn and eve,
We pray to Him.

"My brother tills beside the Nile
His little field; beneath the leaves
My sisters sit and spin the while
My mother weaves.

"And when the millet's ripe heads fall,
And all the bean-field hangs in pod,
My mother shakes, and says that all
Are gifts from God.

"And when, to share our evening meal,
She calls the stranger at the door,
She says, God fills the hands that deal
Food to the poor."

Adown the hermit's wasted cheeks
Glistened the flow of human tears:
"Dear Lord!" he said, "Thy angel speaks,
Thy servant hears."

Within his arms the child he took,
And thought of home and life with men;
And all his pilgrim feet forsook
Returned again.

The palmy shadows cool and long,
The eyes that smiled through lavish locks,
Home's cradle-hymn and harvest song,
And bleat of flocks.

"O, child!" he said, "thou teachest me
There is no place where God is not;
That love will find, where'er it be,
A holy spot."

He rose from off the desert sand,
And, leaning on his staff of thorn,
Went, with the young child, hand in hand,
Like night with morn.

They crossed the desert's dreary line,
And heard the palm-tree's nestling fan,
The Nile-bird's cry, the low of kine,
And voice of man.

Unquestioning, his childish guide
He followed, as the small hand led
To where a woman, gentle-eyed,
Her distaff fed.

She rose, she clasped her truant boy,
She thanked the stranger with her eyes:
The hermit gazed in doubt and joy
And dumb surprise.

And lo!—with sudden warmth and light
A tender memory thrilled his frame;
New-born, the world-lost anchorite
A man became!

"O, sister of El Zara's race,
Behold me!—had we not one mother?"
She gazed into the stranger's face:
"Thou art my brother!"

"Taught by thy child, whom God hath sent,
That love is more than fast or prayer,
I come, toil, care and pain, content,
With thee to share."

Even as his foot the threshold crossed,
The hermit's better life began;
Its holiest saint the Thebaid lost,
And found a man!

J. G. W.

A QUESTION AND AN ANSWER.

"———, PA., *August* 1, 1854.

"DEAR SIR: It is currently reported here, that Mr. Douglas, in walking the streets of Washington city, without stint denounced the clergy, with bitter curses, for their protest against the Nebraska bill. We are anxious to know whether Mr. Douglas is guilty of public profanity, as represented here."

We do not know that Mr. Douglas is guilty of the offence charged. We believe that, socially and morally, he is regarded by his neighbors as no worse than other men, and as not in these particulars meriting social odium. That his pecuniary interests commit him deeply to the perpetuation of Slavery, is as far as we think it just and becoming to go, in commenting upon his personal affairs; and into this matter we regard it as the duty of his nominal constituents of Illinois to look with deep concern. His heart is where his treasure is. He is of Pro-Slavery men one of the most ultra, and of statesmen seeking to promote the slave interest, one of the most reckless and unscrupulous. We need seek for no other grounds upon which to condemn him.

A SOCKDOLOGER!—The New Bedford *Mercury*, alluding to the Greytown affair, says that the Administration has shown more magnanimity than could have been expected by its most ardent admirers. It felt obliged to thrash somebody, and *it has taken one of its size!*

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

We have from time to time quoted paragraphs from Southern newspapers, favorable to the revival of the African slave trade, as well as some in faint condemnation of the project. The severest censure coming from any of the organs of Slavery simply amounts to this: that they regard the agitation of the subject as calculated to weaken the slave party of the free States, and thereby endanger Southern ascendency in the Federal Government. The *Sentinel*, of this city, speaks of the proposition as "silly," "absurd," and "ridiculous," as "sheer folly"—"a distempered delusion."

The *Sentinel* concludes as follows:

"The idea of reopening the slave trade is silly, ridiculous, and absurd. New England, which would profit by it, would oppose it. The South, which owns slaves, would reject the heathen African. It is with pain, therefore, that we are forced to record the fact that one or two journals in the South advocate a renewal of the import traffic in slaves, like that which enriched Old and New England seventy years ago. We hope that they may pause and reflect. We trust that they may consider that they are strengthening the arms of the enemies of the South, and sharpening the weapons of Northern fanaticism. Are these men mad? Have they lost all sense of right? Have they repudiated every dictate of prudence and discretion? Do they not see that they are arming the hands of the Abolitionists, and filling their magazines with the most destructive weapons? Truly, folly is the most fatal of all things!"

It will be seen that the editor manifests no disgust or repugnance at the idea of reviving the horrors of the slave trade, but, like the Richmond *Enquirer* and other Southern journals, thinks it inexpedient, and calculated to strengthen Abolitionism.

We stated yesterday, at the conclusion of an article on this subject, that the African trade was not necessary to supply the demands of Slavery in the Southern States; but that, when Cuba and Brazil are annexed, the clamor in favor of continuing the traffic, which already exists in those countries, would be irresistible. We were not aware, at the time, that we were behind the actual development of public opinion in the South, which has already looked ahead to the supply of labor from Africa, for the proposed acquisitions. The Charleston *Mercury*, it seems, had anticipated us in the suggestion. We copy as follows:

"We are ready to admit that the Southern people do not desire the revival of the slave trade; we do not ourselves desire it. Our slave population is, perhaps, sufficiently large already, in proportion to the white; it is Christian, civilized, and homogeneous; its natural increase is greater than that of the white, North or South; it is nearly equal to the average increase of the whole white population, though the latter is constantly swelled by an immense foreign immigration, and the former is diminished by emancipation, and the incessant slave stealing of the Abolitionists. We should be reluctant to see a new and barbarous element introduced among this peaceable, homogeneous, and thriving population. We prefer things to remain as they are.

"But the same reasons do not apply to Cuba and Brazil. Those countries are in urgent need of an increase of labor, and we see that no sooner is the cessation of the slave trade spoken of with regard to them, than we hear of a score of projects for supplying the void, in some form, the substance of which is Slavery, but the name not yet inserted in the catalogue of mortal sins by British pharisees."

The Charleston *Mercury* is the organ of Southern opinion; and, first or last, the views of the necessitics of Slavery, which find expression through papers of that stamp, always rule the South in the long run. When the settlement of Texas by slaveholders, with its prospective annexation to the Union, was first broached in South Carolina papers, the idea was regarded as too absurd for serious consideration; but, gradually, the morbid necessities for extension became so pressing upon the slave interest, that the thing was demanded as a matter of right. Texas was settled by slaveholders, in violation of Mexican laws which had abolished the institution, and in a few years, a third of the Mexican Republic was severed from its rightful possessors, and annexed to the United States. Not satisfied with this acquisition, Slavery demanded another slice; the Mexican war was declared by James K. Polk, a Pro-Slavery President, and Congress had the weakness and wickedness to sanction his gross usurpation of power.

The result was not altogether so auspicious to Slavery as was anticipated. Mexico was found to be less congenial, in climate and soil, to the institution, than was imagined, and with a population prepossessed against the institution. The South has since looked more directly southward—to Cuba, Hayti, and Brazil. The acquisition of the former, by fair or foul means, is regarded as a fixed fact; and it is not doubted, that in due time the Empire of Soulouque will be subjugated, and the inhabitants reduced to Slavery; the valley of the Amazon, if not the whole of Brazil, annexed; and the African slave trade reopened. Such is the programme of the new political era which is foreshadowed by the organs of public opinion of the South, and such the platform on which Northern doughfaces, Whig and Democratic, will have to stand in the future struggles of Freedom and Slavery. We have already seen, in the report of the Committee on Foreign Relations, in favor of the withdrawal of the African squadron, that the slave-traders have a party in Congress, and that they rank distinguished Northern Senators, as well as Southern, among their leaders. G.

GEN. WASHINGTON ON SLAVERY.

The *New York Tribune*, a few days since, contained the following extract of a letter of Gen. Washington, never before published:

"We conclude these observations with an impressive extract from a hitherto unpublished letter of Washington to Tobias Lear, written from Philadelphia on the 6th of May, 1794, while Mr. Lear was in Great Britain, charged with negotiations for the sale of a considerable portion of Washington's landed estate:

"'I have no scruple in disclosing to you that my motives to these sales are to reduce my income, be it more or less, to specialities, that the remainder of my days may thereby be more tranquil and free from care; and *that I may be enabled, knowing what my dependence is, to do as much good as my resources will admit*; for although, in the estimation of the world, I possess a good and clear estate, yet so unproductive is it, that *I am oftentimes ashamed to refuse aid which I cannot afford, unless I sell part of it to answer this purpose.* Besides these, I have another motive which makes me EARNESTLY wish for these things—IT IS, INDEED, MORE POWERFUL THAN ALL THE REST—namely: *to liberate a certain species of property which I possess very repugnantly to my own feelings, but which imperious necessity compels, until I can substitute some other expedient, by which expenses, not in my power to avoid, (however well disposed I may be to do it,) can be defrayed.*'

"After reading these words, who shall accuse Washington of parsimony, or cite his venerable and sacred name as that of an apologist for slavery?"

A Virginia editor attempts to discredit the authenticity of the letter; but he only displays his ignorance of the writings of Washington, and of the history of his country, if he undertakes to deny Washington's opposition to Slavery. He liberrted his slaves in his will, expressing his regret that he had not been able to do so in his lifetime; and in several letters, to Gen. Lafayette and others, he expressed his anxious concern to see Slavery abolished. The Virginian who denies this displays deplorable ignorance or reckless mendacity. G.

THE DESTRUCTION OF GREYTOWN.

This act might easily be characterized in a few plain words; but as its consequences may be more momentous than was contemplated by the Administration under whose instructions it was executed, we shall for the present content ourselves with presenting to our readers that which we are sure they most desire, a condensed and unprejudiced recital of this singular history.

The affairs of Central America are complicated. Our intercourse with it, however, is limited to a few localities, and has hitherto met with but little obstruction.

Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, is, or was, situated on the eastern side of the Isthmus of Nicaragua, at about the eleventh degree of north latitude. It contained about 60 or 70 indifferent wooden houses, and 300 inhabitants, of course of various shades of color, and of various nations. The United States have been wont to treat with it as an independent town, although, as is indicated by one of his letters to Mr. Marcy, Mr. Borland acknowledges the sovereignty of Nicaragua over the Mosquito territory, of which this is part; ("occupying, by usurpation, territory which our Government recognises as belonging to Nicaragua"—this is his language:) and Mr. Marcoletta, the Minister near our Government from Nicaragua, emphatically claims the town as belonging to that Republic; while the British Government claims the right of protectorate over it.

On the 16th of May last, a difference arose between Captain T. T. Smith, commanding a river steamer in the service of the American Transit Company, and one Antonio, in command of a bungo, or boat of burden. Respecting the particulars of this difference the testimony is contradictory; but it is clear that Smith was violent and overbearing, and that he shot and killed Antonio while that person was not menacing him. A Mr. Wm. L. Miller, of New York, who was present, states that "Capt. Smith has the appearance of being a mixed breed of African and Portuguese. He is about as dark as Antonio, and has no more appearance of being American born than Antonio."

We indeed think, from all the circumstances of the case, that the killing of Antonio was a deed of deliberate purpose, and wholly uncalled for from any motive of self-defence.

At about dusk on that evening, a number of men from Greytown, "headed by a mulatto man calling himself the marshal," went to the steamer, and, producing a warrant from the Mayor of the town, attempted to arrest Capt. Smith, who armed himself and kept them at bay. Mr. Borland, who was on board of the steamer Northern Light, went on board the Routh, and, learning the state of the case, refused to respect the warrant of the Mayor, and took a loaded rifle, and, levelling it at the marshal and his posse, caused them to desist and retire.

Soon after this, about dark, Mr. Borland went to the house of Mr. Fabens, the United States commercial agent at Greytown, where he soon learned that the people had, in town meeting, presided over by the Mayor, determined to arrest him; and it was not long before a number of men came to Mr. Fabens's house for that purpose, and informed him that they came by the authority of the Mayor. Mr. Borland came to the door, denied the authority of the town to arrest American citizens, and demanded to know if they were not aware that in his character of American Minister he in particular was exempt from arrest. They appeared to disregard this; when Mr. Borland called a number of men from within, to witness that he gave full warning. Hereupon, Mr. Borland says, a person, who represented himself to be the Mayor, told him that these proceedings (*this* visit and menaced arrest) were not authorized by him.

During that night, Mr. Borland remained within Mr. Fabens's house, and the men of the town kept watch to prevent his escape, and to prevent his receiving succor from the Northern Light. In the morning he returned to the vessel, unmolested, where he organized a force of fifty men, in the name of our Government, under the command of Crawford Fletcher, of Tennessee. Mr. Fabens placed himself under their protection, and Mr. Borland proceeded to Washington.

On the 15th of May, (the day before the alleged murder,) Mr. Fabens wrote to Mr. Marcy, Secretary of State, an account of the purloining of a boat load of merchandise from the Transit Company, and in regard to the differences between that company and the authorities of Greytown, respecting the jurisdiction over Point Arenas.

On the 16th of June, Mr. Fabens wrote to Mr. Marcy, stating that he did not think that any suitable indemnity could be obtained by the Transit Company from the people of San Juan, *unless the Government should take possession of and hold the entire territory of Mosquito.*

Meanwhile, on the 3d of June, Mr. Marcy wrote to Mr. Fabens, stating that an order would be sent out by the steamer, on the 5th, to discharge the men who were employed by Mr. Borland, and that one of our armed vessels would be ordered to visit San Juan, and further:

"The inhabitants of that place will be expected to make reparation for the wrongs and outrages they have committed. The case stated in your communication to this Department of the 15th ultimo presents a wrong which requires immediate reparation. As the pretended authorities of the town have volunteered to protect those who had stolen the property of the Accessory Transit Company, when brought within the territories over which they assume to exercise authority, they will be held responsible to the amount thereof, and to make due reparation therefor. You will lose no time in notifying them that this Government will require a restoration of or payment for the property taken to their town, and all damages sustained by their outrageous conduct in preventing the company from repossessing itself of it. In other respects their conduct has been such towards our citizens as to require the interposition of this Government for obtaining redress, and it is expected that the people at that place will be prepared to make it in a satisfactory manner."

On the 9th of June, Mr. Marcy wrote to Mr. Fabens, that "Commander Hollins, of the United States navy, will immediately proceed in a national ship to San Juan de Nicaragua," and added:

"It is said that the pretended political and civil authority at that place is dissolved. Should this prove to be true, there will be no organized body upon which a demand for redress can be made, or from which a proper indemnity for injuries or insults can be received. But the individuals who have participated in the infliction of the wrongs cannot escape from responsibilities resulting from the conduct of the late political organization at that place.

"It is hoped that the town will have adjusted that matter to the entire satisfaction of the company; and in that way Commander Hollins will be relieved from the disagreeable necessity of taking any action in regard to that subject."

"Mr. Borland, our Minister to Central America, has represented to this Government that, while recently at San Juan, he was insulted by the authorities or people of that place. An indignity offered to the nation, as well as to him individually, cannot be permitted to pass unnoticed. If done by order of the authorities of the place, they must answer for it in their assumed political character. Nothing short of an apology for the outrage will save *the place* from the infliction that such an act justly merits."

"The neglect to bring them to justice is assuming, on the part of the nominal magistrates there, the responsibility for the acts of these individuals. In such a case, not to punish is an implied sanction of the acts of the transgressors."

The instructions of J. C. Dobbin, Secretary of the Navy, to Commander Hollins, June 10, 1854, after reciting the outrages said to have been committed, were as follows:

"It is very desirable that these people should be taught that the United States will not tolerate these outrages, and that they have the power and the determination to check them. It is, however, very much to be hoped that you can effect the purposes of your visit without a resort to violence and destruction of property and loss of life. The presence of your vessel will, no doubt, work much good. The Department reposes much in your prudence and good sense.

"Former despatches have acquainted you with the peculiar political position of this town, and of the relations of our Government to it. You will remain there no longer than you may deem necessary, as it is a warm and unhealthy climate."

On arriving at Greytown, Captain Hollins learned from Mr. Fabens that no apology or indemnity had been given or promised, and that the very persons who had been guilty of "the insult offered to Mr. Borland" were then "in undisputed possession of the town."

On the 24th of June, Mr. Fabens issued a proclamation "to those now or lately pretending to and exercising authority in San Juan del Norte," in which he said:

"I am instructed by the Government of the United States at Washington, to notify you that the said Government will require of the pretended authorities 'of the town of San Juan del Norte, restoration of or payment for the property brought within the territories over which they assume to exercise authority,' as set forth in the protest of Mr. Scott, general agent of the Accessory Transit Company, dated May 19, 1854, 'and all damages sustained by their outrageous conduct in preventing the said company from repossessing itself of it.'

"It is expected that for this, as well as for their conduct in other respects towards American citizens, the people of the town will be prepared to afford redress in a satisfactory manner. There is likewise an outstanding claim of the Accessory Transit Company *versus* the acting authorities of San Juan del Norte, for the sum of $8,000, as a remuneration for the loss sustained by the company in consequence of the destruction of their building on Point Arenas, in the month of March, 1853, by the said acting authorities; which claim was duly presented by Abraham Banker, agent of said company, on the 25th of June, 1853."

On the 11th of July, this proclamation was substantially reported, the unknown sum being fixed at $16,000. And it was further proclaimed:

"I have now, acting in concert with Commander Hollins, of the U. States ship Cyane, at present in this harbor, to demand of you immediate payment of the sum of sixteen thousand dollars," &c.

"For the indignity offered to the United States of America, in the conduct of the authorities and people of this town towards their Minister, Mr. Borland, while recently in this place, nothing short of an apology, promptly made, and satisfactory assurances given to Commander Hollins of future good behaviour, on the part of the said authorities and people, towards the United States and her public functionaries who may in future be here, will save the place from the infliction which its late acts justly merit."

On the 12th of July, no response having been made to the foregoing, Commander Hollins issued his proclamation, stating that—

"Whereas certain gross outrages have, at sundry times, been perpetrated by the 'authorities' (so called) and people of San Juan del Norte, upon the persons and property of American citizens at that place and vicinity; and whereas a serious insult and indignity has been offered to the United States, in the conduct of the said authorities and people towards Mr. Borland, United States Minister to Central America, for which outrage and insult no indemnity has been given, and no satisfactory reply returned to demands already made:

"Now, therefore, I, George N. Hollins, commander of the U. States sloop of war Cyane, by virtue of my instructions from the United States Government at Washington, do hereby solemnly proclaim and declare, that if the demands for satisfaction in the matters above named—specified in the letter of Mr. Fabens, United States commercial agent, dated