

TO ADVERTISERS.
N. P. WILKINSON is our authorized canvassing agent for New York City and vicinity, and will receive and forward advertisements for the Era at our lowest rates.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1855.

THE RAINBOW SHALL APPEAR NEXT WEEK.

IF DICTUM will send his name, with permission to print it with his communication, it shall be forthcoming.

A TREASONABLE CHAPTER.—If there be a more thrilling description of the "Wager by Battle," than Herbert furnishes in this week's Era, we have never seen it. It will stir the blood of the most sluggish.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We tender our grateful acknowledgments to L. H. B. West Jefferson, O. A. S., Mount Pleasant, Pa., W. W. McD., Pine Creek, Pa., D. N. B., Braintree, Mass., A. McC., New Philadelphia, O., L. S. A., Painesville, O., and F. W. B., East Walpole, Mass., for the earliest responses to our circular. We shall soon hear from others. The friends of Freedom are neither dead nor sleeping.

We repeat, from this date, the Era will be furnished for the rest of the volume, to clubs of five or more, for \$1 each subscriber.

HERBERT'S STORY CLOSED.—This week closes the publication of the Storm Sea, a story full of power, evincing a thorough knowledge of the life and manners of the times in which the scene is laid, and replete with noble lessons on the Rights of Man. We learn that it will soon be issued in a volume, so that those of our readers who have not given it enough of their columns may have an opportunity of reading the whole, together.

BELL SMITH ABROAD again greets our readers. The Letter on our first page will be followed by three more, and the whole series, twenty-four in number, will appear in book form, from the press of J. C. Derby, New York, 119 Nassau street, with some thirty fine illustrations, by Parisian artists. We predict a rapid sale for the volume.

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

We shall print specimen numbers of "Facts for the People" this week, and send them to voluntary agents and others, that they may see what kind of a paper we intend it shall be. Meantime, we again call attention to the Prospectus.

PROSPECTUS OF THE
Fifth Volume of the National Era,
Washington, D. C.

G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR;
JOHN G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

The National Era is an uncompromising opponent of Slavery and the Slave Power; an advocate of personal, civil, and religious liberty, without regard to race or color; a foe to all secret combinations, whether in politics, or whether under the direction of priests or laymen; a friend of Temperance, the Homestead, and all reforms calculated to secure to Labor its just consideration, recompense, and political weight; and to Trade, its Natural Freedom, in virtue of which every man has a right to buy and sell in whatever market he pleases. It believes in the right of individual judgment in all matters, whether of religion or politics, and rejects the dogma of passive obedience and non-resistance in both Church and State; holding that no man who swears to support the Constitution of the United States can deliberately violate his own settled conviction of its meaning, without incurring the guilt of perjury, and that no citizen can obey a human enactment which requires him to commit injustice, and to be immoral.

It regards Slavery, and all its consequences, as forming the great political evil of the day; taking the ground, that Slavery, from its necessities, instincts, and habits, is perpetually antagonistic to Freedom and Liberty, and unchangeably aggressive; that its workings can be counteracted only by a permanent system of measures; that the Whig and Democratic Parties, not having been formed with a view to the issues raised by Slavery, and being, therefore, being held in thrall by it, so far from presenting any resistance to its exactions, afford facilities for enforcing them; and that one or both must be broken up, and the true friends of Liberty be united, without regard to old issues or prejudices, on a Party of Freedom, as a necessary preliminary to the overthrow of the Slave Power. It therefore gives its hearty support to the Republican Movement, so far as its policy has yet been developed—a movement which promises to effect such a union.

The National Era, while occupying a decided position in the political arena, is also a literary and news department for the various wants of the Family. Careful abstracts of Intelligence, Domestic and Foreign, are given in every week in its columns; during the sessions of Congress, special attention is devoted to its movements; and it has secured the services of some of the most distinguished literary writers of our country.

The Sixth Volume commences on the 1st of January annually. Subscriptions should be sent in at once to G. BAILEY, Washington, D. C., November, 1854.

TERMS.
Single copy one year - \$7
Single copy six months - \$5
Three copies one year - \$19
Five copies one year - \$27
Single copy one month - \$1
Single copy six months - \$5
Single copy one year - \$7

Voluntary agents are entitled to receive 50 cents commission on every year, and 25 cents on each semi-annual subscriber, except in the case of Clubs.

A Club of five subscribers, at \$8, will entitle the person making it up to a copy for six months; a Club of ten, at \$16, to a copy for one year. When a Club of subscribers will be forwarded, additional copies may be made to, on the same terms. It is not necessary that all subscribers to a Club should receive their papers at the same post office.

Money may be forwarded, by mail, at our risk. Large amounts may be remitted in drafts or by express, at the option of the subscriber.

G. BAILEY, Washington, D. C.

EQUAL RIGHTS.

The Legislature of New York is about passing an act prohibiting the exclusion of colored children from the common schools of the State.

The Legislature of Massachusetts will probably pass a similar act, thus recognizing the doctrine of equal rights, and repudiating the distinctions of caste. But, in this same Legislature, the Committee on Constitutional Amendments has reported propositions to amend the Constitution so as to make none but citizens by birth eligible to office in this State, and to allow no foreign immigrant to vote hereafter, save such as are already naturalized.

We must ask those of our friends who unluckily have been drawn into the Know Nothing Party, to bear in mind that it is the organization, in its nature, objects, principles, and workings, that we attack, not the motives of those belonging to it. It is not for us to decide upon the honesty of this man or that man, but we have a right to comment upon the acts of either, so far as they affect the public welfare. We again say, that not a few have joined the Secret Order with pure aims, but we shall do all we can to detach them from it.

THE FRUIT BEGINNING TO APPEAR.

Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? "Whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap."

Possibly the friends of human rights begin by this time to understand the philosophy embodied in these words of Holy Writ. Last week, the Era contained a brief notice of the dreadful riots which disgraced the Election for Municipal Officers, held on the 2d inst., in Cincinnati. On the fourth page the reader will find a more particular account. The bitter prejudices of caste and race were inflamed to the highest pitch; knives, firearms, and even cannon, were freely used; the conflict was a bloody one, and the ballot-boxes in one of the wards, where the Democrats had the majority, were destroyed.

In our discussion of the subject of naturalization, three months ago, we had occasion to enlarge upon the beneficent operation of our laws in relation to foreign immigrants, inasmuch as they immediately dispel all national prejudices, and identify them with the native-born population; we predicted the most mischievous consequences from the working of the new policy of the Know Nothings, just as far as they should attempt to carry it out. Arraying in castes, we said, and you put at hazard the very existence of the State. Nothing should be deprecated more than a conflict of nationalities or races in one country; it must divide and waste its energies, retard its development, engender violent and malignant passions. Carry out the Know Nothing policy, and Parties will be organized, not with a view to great Questions of State, but on issues between natives and foreigners; and the inevitable antagonisms between them will render the former more jealous, more intolerant, more proscriptive, and the latter more clamorous, more exclusive, more Anti-American. We further showed how the new policy would tend to diminish Immigration, how it would lead the naturalized Germans and Irish to sink their national differences and controversies, and combine together against the common oppressor; and we took special pains to point out the reason why it would be cordially sustained by the supporters of Slavery, viz: its certain operation, if established, to prevent that accession of population from abroad, which has so rapidly multiplied the free States, and augmented their political power.

Behold the fruits, and then say, whether men can gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles.

Cincinnati, where Know Nothingism has had time to bear fruit, has this year been the theatre of a bloody conflict of races, which has rendered a fair expression of the will of the People at the ballot-box impossible.

One year ago, in that city, in a struggle on the Common School Question, the Germans generally united with the native-born citizens, against the Irish, and the result was a peaceful triumph of the Right. This year, by the proscription policy of the Know Nothings, German and Irish naturalized citizens were driven to combine against a common oppressor; and a similar combination is going on in the West, in a new section of the State, the city of New York, which has already carried the municipal elections in Toledo, Sandusky, and Cayuga Falls.

As to the effect on Immigration, it is, perhaps, too early to verify our reasoning by an appeal to facts. Still, we cannot refrain from calling attention to the remarkable decrease in immigration for the last three months, as shown by the following report of the Commissioners of Emigration, New York:

Table with 3 columns: Month, 1854, 1853, 1852. Rows: January, February, March, Total.

The number of immigrants arriving at the port of New York continues extremely small. The total for last month amounted to only 2,962, according to the records of the Commissioners, and the true friends of Liberty were from Germany, 416 from Ireland, 326 from England, 102 from France, 390 from Switzerland, 179 from States, and the remainder from other countries. The number of arrivals for the last three months is shown by the following table, as compared with previous years:

Table with 3 columns: Month, 1854, 1853, 1852. Rows: January, February, March, Total.

We may reasonably attribute this to the falling off in the increased demand for soldiers, caused by the Eastern war, but, on the other hand, we must remember, that war taxes, war prices, and the consequent suffering among the Poor, especially where, as is the fact, the war does not awaken popular enthusiasm, would naturally stimulate emigration. The fair inference, therefore, is, that by the newspapers, and through the letters of friends and relatives in this country, they have been apprised of the extraordinary movement among us, to establish a policy hostile to their interests, incompatible with their self-respect, and calculated to degrade them, should they come to our shores, to the condition of an inferior caste; and that, at least for the time, has checked the tide of immigration.

Look again. "That," we said, "which, more than anything else, was the fruit of the holders to the Know Nothing movement, receding them almost to the secrecy of the Order, is its tendency to reduce the tide of foreign immigration, and thereby retard the growth of the free States." Recollect, the number of persons of foreign birth in Virginia, to the white native-born population, is as 21 to 100—in the whole South, as less than 2 to 100; and the accommodations for Catholic worshippers in Virginia are rated at 7,300, while those for Protestants are 850,150! Admit, then, the mischievous effects of Foreignism and Catholicism, as charged by the Know Nothings, the Slave States are possible exempt from them, but the advocacy of Know Nothingism in that section is founded on a political motive—an determination to use it to reduce the political power of the North, and as an instrumentality to perpetuate the ascendancy of the Slave Power in the Federal Government. That which we clearly indicated at the beginning of this criminal crusade against Foreigners, is now proved by facts. Will our readers seriously ponder the following quotations:

The Hon. THOMAS S. FLOYD, of the Know Nothing candidate for the Governorship of Virginia, in a recent letter, showing why the South is interested in the success of the new Order, says: "The South is especially and deeply interested in this question; this immense and annual addition to our population settles in the non-slaveholding States, and the extensive Territories of the West and Northwest, out of which free States still in consequence, be more speedily formed, increasing with fearful rapidity the balance of power against us."

Ex-Governor Smith, of Virginia, who, when he filled the Chair of State, recommended the expulsion of the free colored people, has lately

cut loose from the Democratic party so called, and come out an advocate of Know Nothingism; only, he explains in the following extract from a late speech delivered by him in Virginia:

"I will never interfere with foreigners now in the country; but I know foreigners who approve the policy of arresting the importation of foreigners. The origin of the Know Nothings is a struggle for bread—a frightful and angry question at the North. At the South, it is a political question of high importance. The North has fifty-free Representatives more than the South already. The natural increase of the South is one-third greater than that of the North, because there are greater checks on population there; but the artificial element of foreigners brings South, what is our policy? What is the frightful struggle before us? The effect of Know Nothingism is to turn back the tide of immigration, and our highest duty to the South is to discourage immigration, to deprive it as a great calamity."

While these Pro-Slavery men are looking to the Know Nothings to prevent the multiplication of free States, and to reduce their political weight, others in the South are trusting to their efforts to "nationalize," as they call it, the People of the free States, so as to lead them to ignore the Slavery Question, and thus leave the perpetration of the rule of Slavery. Hear the Louisville (Ky.) Journal:

"We have been informed, on what we regard as wholly unquestionable authority, that a National Convention of the Know Nothing party in the city of New York; that it consisted of numerous delegates from all parts of the Union; that a motion was made by one of its members to engraft Free-Soilism upon the party creed; and that the resolution was voted down unanimously. We do not know that the American party will really succeed in nationalizing itself in regard to the Slavery question, but we believe that it is making a sincere and earnest effort to do so, in despite of the exertions of some influential men in its organization; and we trust, and believe, that it will be successful."

But we have not yet done. In our early articles on the subject, we said that one effect of this new party would be, to give a new lease of life to "Old Hunker Democracy," by supplanting the only issue on which it could be protracted irretrievably, by one which would revivify it, and probably bring it into power once more. And now, what do we see? You tell us you have carried New Hampshire triumpantly! Aye, but you care not to admit, what is a fact, that the vote given for Governor Baker, the Hunker Democratic candidate, is not far short of the heaviest Democratic vote ever cast in that State; so that, one or two more victories of the same kind, (as the "New York Herald" says), and the power will leave the State in the hands of the old dynasty.

Worse still in Connecticut; while you have carried the Legislature and Congressmen against the Administration, we are left to guess at the Anti-Slavery character of the members elect, and to speculate upon the fact, that Ingham, the Hunker Democratic candidate for Governor, equals his highest competitor in the popular vote. Where would Connecticut stand to-day, were she called upon to vote on the question of the Presidency? Turning our eyes to the West, we see the Old Line Democracy, reinforced by the German and Irish naturalized citizens, carrying Cincinnati, the most important city at the West, right on the heels of a victory in Detroit.

Yet you tell us that the Know Nothings have broken up the old parties! They have done no such thing. It was the agitation of the question of Slavery that broke them up; and had not this miserable Order started up, to divert the attention and divide the energies of the free States, they would have formed a great party of Freedom. But the Secret Order, while it absorbed the Whigs, and at first the Free-Soilers, soon gave a new issue to the Old Line Democracy, on which it is rallying its lately scattered forces, and its heavy votes in New Hampshire and Connecticut, with its municipal victories in the West, give evidence of its renewed vitality. What Fusion, animated by the spirit of Freedom, accomplished last year, has been entirely being subverted by Know Nothingism, animated and controlled by the spirit of Caste and Bigotry.

As we are dealing with some of the fruits of Know Nothingism, we may as well close this article with a notice of a few of its acts. State Sovereignty is a sacred article in our creed. The safe safeguard of the personal rights of the citizen, the true conservative element of the Union, the only sure check upon the dangerous growth of Federal Tyranny, is State Sovereignty. The slaveholders profess devotion to it, but the necessities of the Slave Interest are constantly leading them to the most contradictory acts. Their system of Slavery is purely a matter of State regulation, but they are foisted within Federal jurisdiction, and brought under the whole power of the People and the Union, working through the Federal Government, to sustain it. The Federal Act, forced through at their demand, is a new violation of State Sovereignty; and, by every method that a wicked ingenuity can suggest, the Slave Power seeks to subject the State Courts absolutely to the power of the Federal Courts. Its bill, which passed the Senate last session, to protect United States Officers, &c., was virtually a bill to deprive the States of the power of guarding the rights of their citizens. Its avowed determination to carry the Lemmon case before the Supreme Court of the United States, so as to procure a reversal of the decision of the State Court, that no slave can be brought within the limits of New York, without becoming, by a de facto, another blow aimed at State Sovereignty. And what do we see in Ohio? A girl, three brought on *habeas corpus* before the State Courts, and thrice discharged as free, because, as nobody denies, she was conveyed into the State by the will or consent of the master, is suddenly arrested by a United States Marshal, on a writ impudently granted by a United States Commissioner, and the assumption is this boldly made that the State is without power to protect the rights of its inhabitants, and that the Federal Government through its missions may interfere in the slave code, and define who its people shall be subjected to infernal provisions. This is Centralism, with a vengeance—A Centralism that, if tolerated, must crush out every vestige of State Sovereignty.

So much for Slavery. Now, let us see how Know Nothingism, for another object, in another way, is working to the same end. To the State belongs the right to say, who shall and who shall not vote, who shall and who shall not be a citizen within its jurisdiction. It should jealously guard it, as it should guard all its reserved rights, against Federal encroachment; much more should it shrink from the degradation of abdicating voluntarily any part of its sovereignty. But Know Nothingism, blinded by prejudice, is willing to degrade the State for the sake of degrading the foreigner. Under its influence, Maine voluntarily abdicates its prerogative to prescribe who shall be citizens and voters within its bounds; and Rhode Island goes still further, begging the Federal Government to give it the protection which its own police power, if properly exercised, might provide, against the evil of foreign criminals and paupers. We print

the resolutions of the Legislatures of both States, that four readers may see how harmoniously Know Nothingism is working with Slavery, to aggrandize the Federal Government at the expense of State Rights:

STATE OF MAINE.
In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and

An act annulling the naturalization power of Courts in this State.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted, &c., That no court created by the authority of this State, however extended its jurisdiction, or by whatever name designated, nor any functionary pertaining to said court, shall hereafter, hold or execute any jurisdiction in the administration of the laws of Congress, common law, or the naturalization laws, nor shall any court take cognizance of any application of any alien to be admitted to become a citizen, to make any record or grant, or issue any certificate or other document in respect to any alien, who has been naturalized, or made a citizen of the United States; provided that all cases where application has already been made and filed in any court, and passed from the operation of the foregoing section, shall remain in force.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from and after its approval by the Governor.

Approved March 17, 1855.

ANAS P. MORRILL.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCES.
In General Assembly, January Session, A. D. 1855.

Resolved by this General Assembly, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be, and they are hereby, requested to use their best exertions to procure the passage, by the National Legislature, of a naturalization law, which shall require a previous continuous residence of twenty-one years in this country to enable an alien to become a citizen, and to require the same of all members and oaths required by such law shall be required to be had and taken exclusively before some circuit or district court of the United States, and before the judge or judges thereof in open court.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to transmit copies of the above resolutions to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, to be by them presented to their respective houses of Congress, and to the Governors of the other States, with a request that they be communicated to the Legislatures thereof.

"A SUBSTANTIAL CASUS BELLI" AT LAST.

The well-known *Ion*, the ingenious correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun*, commenting upon the policy of Emancipation in Cuba, announces that the Administration is at last furnished "with a *casus belli*, so long wanting in our controversies with that country." His remarks deserve attention, not so much as reflections on the other States, with a request that they be communicated to the Legislatures thereof.

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"If in the long-continued bickerings between the Government of the United States and that of Spain, a substantial *casus belli* has been wanting, it is no longer so. One is quite ready to believe that the Government of the United States has been long waiting for a *casus belli*, and that it has now found it. It is the *Ion* that has been long wanting in our controversies with that country." His remarks deserve attention, not so much as reflections on the other States, with a request that they be communicated to the Legislatures thereof.

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go to war to whip Spain for abolishing it with in her own sole jurisdiction. What a consistent people we are!

France and England stand at the back of Spain, it is said. If she venture on Emancipation, they will sustain her. Spain has twenty thousand troops on the island, and a navy about as respectable as ours. England and France could detach enough vessels on the instant, to surround the island. We have scarcely enough to protect our commerce, floating on every sea; and no fortifications that would secure our Southern coast with its negro plantations from desolating ravages. Emancipation declared in Cuba; half a million of sney slaves, burning with the new fire of freedom; a well-disciplined army in the field; the combined fleets of England, France, and Spain, guarding its coast; our own coast defences, our own immense commerce unprotected—what a mighty show we should make in the endeavor to whip Spain and take Cuba! 'O, most last day Missionaries of the Gospel of Freedom. Our new Evangel, glowing with the light and love of Liberty, was issued in 1776. Since then, we have been at pains to convince mankind that we are their instructor in the doctrine of human rights, their benefactor in the art of self-government, besides giving them related lessons on the correct policy of "mind your own business," "absolute Non-Interference by one Sovereign Power in the domestic affairs of another."

Of course, we must be filled with admiration at the notable practical illustration we are called upon by the Slaveholders to furnish of our professions, by going to war, to prevent the Sovereign Power of Spain from managing its own concerns in its own way, and to stop the spread of Freedom and Free Labor to Cuba. We are to be the aggressors, and we are to be the aggressors in the doctrine of human rights, their benefactor in the art of self-government, besides giving them related lessons on the correct policy of "mind your own business," "absolute Non-Interference by one Sovereign Power in the domestic affairs of another."

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CUBAN AFFAIRS.—POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES.

The article on the fourth page of the Era, containing the explanation made in the early part of March to the Cabinet and Cortes at Madrid, concerning the projected conspiracy in Cuba, has excited profound interest. It would seem, from the statements of the Prime Minister, LIZARRAGA, that the plot was more formidable than any preceding one; that it received its first impulse from the United States, and was sustained by an extensive organization among us; that the first blow was to be struck the moment the result of Mr. Soule's mission should be known; and that the conspiracy was to be aided by a *filibuster expedition*, with four steamers, and bands of adventurers from the United States, under the command of General Quitman, assisted by Henderson and Kinney, the Government and People of this country meanwhile being deceived by representations that it was intended for the colonization of Central America; and, finally, that all the conspirators arrested were acknowledged partisans of the maintenance of Slavery.

In connection with the disclosure of the last named fact, the correspondents of the French journals state that M. Lauriaga took occasion to declare that the policy of the Government now is, to put an end to the system of Slavery, and they congratulate the Spanish Cabinet on this bold step, so much in harmony with the spirit of the age. The Madrid correspondents of the London journals confine the declaration of the Minister to the rigid suppression of the slave trade, so that the position of the Spanish Government on the subject is yet in doubt. The *National Intelligencer* does not believe the report in the French journals; it seemed to be shocked at the bare idea of Emancipation in Cuba, not on its own account, but, probably, from an apprehension of the terrible effect it might have in arousing the indignation of the South. There are some editors who cannot get over the notion that the wrath of the slaveholders is a very fearful thing. It was but too happy, a day or two after the reception