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G. BAILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

WASHINGTON, D. C.

For the National Era.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A NEW ENGLAND GIRL.

BY MARTHA RUSSELL.

CHAPTER VI—Continued.

Little Ad'line had grown too—grown still prettier—more like my old favorites, the pond lilies; but her pet names seemed just as fitting as ever; for no one, who looked in her eyes, or saw her motions of childish grace, could ever think of her growing old and mature.

Polly Maria was the only one in whom I noted any change. She seemed to be more discouraged, in view of her own sinfulness and that of the world, than ever before; but I was beginning to make my own estimate of people and things, and a doubt of the entire truthfulness of her statement dawned upon my mind. When I saw her laboring so unweariedly day after day, doing everything not only for our comfort, but for the parties of country people who called there for some favor or other, lending her kettles and even her best dishes, to help out their *pic nics*, and finding them dirty, if not cracked or broken, on their return, without a word of complaint, I found it difficult to believe her such a sinful "*worm* of the dust," as she affirmed herself to be. I was beginning to understand that people are generally better than their creeds, that the moods resulting from a deranged, a diseased *physique*, and an earnest, thoughtful, religious expression, are two different things.

I had not been there many days, however, before I began to suspect her present low spirits were in some way connected with the visits of a Mr. Nat Frisbie, who frequently dropped in to look after the seine she was netting for his company, he being a prominent owner in one of the most valuable fisheries, or to return some borrowed article; and they held sometimes quite long conversations together, which always seemed to leave a shadow behind them, though why I could not tell, for he was a smart, active, cheerful-looking man, with a cheery, treble voice, like a fife.

At last, I asked Uncle Steve "what it meant?" He continued to look gravely for a minute or so at the point of the horizon on which his eye was fixed when I spoke, before he replied.

"I kinder guess it's 'cause he's a widderwer."

"A widower!"

"Yes; he's been hangin' about here all summer; widderwers, I've minded, are pretty good at hangin' on; but somehow, Polly don't seem to bite—not right sharp," he added, meditatively.

"Do you mean that he wants to marry Polly Maria?" I asked, my residence with Agnes having enlightened me somewhat on the different relations of life.

"I guess that's about it, though she's never opened her head to me about it, only when I, thinkin' she might not feel quite easy in her mind about Birdie and me, if she should conclude to go, tried to talk to her a bit, and lay out a clear course for us all, she said 'twas a world o' changes, and 'twas best to be prepared—which I take to be about as nigh true as anything out of the Bible. Them as has had troubles like her, ought to know," said the old man, humbly.

"But you wouldn't let her go! You couldn't spare her, Uncle Steve!" I said, in surprise.

"Why, yes; 'cause, as I said before, that's Bible truth, and there's no sheering off from it. Nat Frisbie is a good fellow—he's well to do, and he's got three or four little children, as needs somebody to look arter 'em. You see, Blackbird, it don't come quite so handy for most men-folks to look arter the little ones, as it did for me to look arter Birdie. Nat thinks she'd be a good hand to manage 'em, and fix up their things; and so she would. An' I shouldn't wonder, if 'mong so many on 'em, they brightened her up a leetle, 'cause, you know, she could allers have some of 'em with her, and wouldn't be so lonesome as she is now, when Birdie is off with me."

Rough, unpolished, old sea-shell, but with a strain of the eternal melody in his heart; unselfish to the last! But I did not see it then. This matrimonial project seemed to me a kind of proof of Polly Maria's sinfulness, and I bluntly expressed my thought.

Uncle Steve opened his mouth something in the manner of a fish, and laughed silently; then letting his eye drop on me, he said—

"Not sinful, but natural, Blackbird. You don't understand it yet, but I s'pose you will in time. It's nater, though some on 'em play shy, I'm minded, just like a fish! kinder suspicious like o' the hook, but they give in at last!"

"But Birdie and you, Uncle Steve. How will you manage?"

"Well, it seemed a kind of a hard kink to me at first, 'cause, you see, I ain't very sharp, and I hadn't observed, as Birdie was growin' up inter a tall girl, until she minded me of it t'other day. Polly Maria had gone up to Harriet Stone's, ter evenin' meetin', and I thought I'd kinder sound Birdie about the matter."

"Well, what did she say?" I asked, seeing him pause.

"She! She made it all straight, in course; nothin' ever puzzles her. You see, I bore down hard on Nat's little gals as hadn't got no mother, 'cause I thought 'twas a good pint; and when I axed her, would she let Aunt Polly go to look arter 'em, and content herself with old Uncle Steve, and what he could do for her, Lord bless her! I had her cryin' an' laughin', as is her way, you know, on my shoulder, all ter once—cryin' for the poor children as hadn't got no Uncle Steve, she said, an' laughin' ter think of the weddin', an' 'cause she would have some little cousins to go ter see. I never thought about that pint before; Blackbird," the old man now added, thoughtfully, raising his tarpaulin, and drawing the back of his red hand across his still redder forehead, as if all this unusual amount of thought pained him—"I'd never thought as how she might be lonesome, an' she won't own it now. But it's nater for her ter want ter see somebody besides Uncle Steve, an' she can't work agin' nater—though, if anybody can, she can. I've thought a good deal about it sin', Blackbird; an' ef it warn't makin' too much 'count of old Steve Leete, I should say the Lord had jist taken a turn at the wheel himself, ter lay out a clear course for me—leavin' a kink here or there, to make me keep a sharp lookout; an' all for Birdie's sake, in course. An', sin' you an' I come, I've thought of another pint. Birdie ought ter have some larnin. Not that she can't read glib enough now, and knows all about the Nor'west Coast, and all the capes from the Horn up to Sandy Hook. She dont know much about the land, as you see, when you tried to make her know about St. Louis, t'other day; an' she can't write like you, nor make such picters, 'cause she haint been to school much, it's such a long ways, and Polly nor I even are given much to such things. If Polly Maria marries Nat, Birdie can board up there, and go to school with the children. You see, the kink pays out with a clean run, Blackbird!"

"Yes, and what will you do all alone, Uncle Steve?"

He looked straight over my head at the distant horizon, so that I could not see his eyes, as he said—

"Blackbird, you used to like my clam chowders. I guess I must make you one to-day."

Even the vision of my favorite dish could not hide from me the figure of the lonely old man, and I persisted in repeating—

"But you will be all alone, Uncle Steve!"

"I can get used to it, I s'pose, Birdie!" he said, slowly; and I much doubt whether the spars and lines of the schooner in the distance, upon which his eyes were fixed, did not grow indistinct for a few moments, from other causes than distance and the salt sea spray.

I learned from Uncle Steve that Mrs. Sally had been entangled in a lawsuit with her stepsons, which was likely to be mulcted in heavy damages, or what would be heavy damages to her. Miss Agnes had forbidden my renewing my acquaintance with her, and the prohibition was a great trial to me; not that Miss Agnes's teachings or my Sabbath school lessons had made me cherish towards my old mistress a loving, forgiving spirit—they had reached no farther than the lips as yet—my regret arose from a very different feeling. I longed to have her see my nice dresses, my long curls, which were Miss Agnes's pride, my new straw hat and sunshade—to show her that "town-poor Lina" "was somebody." I wondered if there would be any harm in walking past her house in this dress; the temptation was great; and one day, when Uncle Steve was off to the reef, I excused myself from accompanying Polly Maria and little Ad'line to Rogers's store—some two miles distant, where the Cove people did their trading—and, as soon as they were gone, dressed myself, and set out for the pond. I did not think that the very dress which I was so proud of displaying would alone prevent my old mistress, even if she happened to see me, from recognising me, as my growth did not; and thinking I had effectually concealed my plan from my friends, I walked on.

But I was mistaken; else why, with each step that brought me nearer the old place, did there come memories of Ollie? soft, gentle memories, that drove away the proud, vain thoughts, and left only tears. The sting and tingle of Mrs. Sally's blows, so keenly remembered when I started, were gone; and, yielding to the strong impulse which moved me, I sprang over the fence, and, instead of passing the house, sought my old retreat on the edge of the pond. Looking into the water there, I saw the whole of that poor boy's life pass before me; even the sweet, gentle, patient form came and looked in my eyes, until I could see no more for the fast-falling tears.

As I turned away, I came in contact with a bent sapling; it was the one Ollie had bent for me years before, and by which he had illustrated to me the reason of Mrs. Sally's existence. "God does not make 'em. He lets 'em be. Something bent her, made her cross and crooked, I s'pose."

Again I seemed to hear his low, earnest voice repeating these words, and, my heart melting at the memory, I went down upon my knees, and uttered again that prayer for Mrs. Sally's redemption, which our childish hearts had uttered years ago.

God deals wonderfully with the childish heart; let us reverence, not scorn, His teachings!

CHAP. VII.

"A daw 's not reckoned a religious bird
Because it keeps a-cawing from a steeple."

"I would give notice to the congregation that the Rev. Mark Tyler will address the audience this afternoon, on the subject of Foreign Missions, and give some account of a new race, the Whalla Basheen, said to have been discovered in the vicinity of the source of the Niger, in the interior of Africa."

How well do I remember the above announcement, as it fell from the lips of good old Father Mason, in Chesterwood church, one wintry Sabbath afternoon, and the glance of eager curiosity which I bestowed upon the bland, oily-looking individual who sat leaning back in the pulpit at his side.

Not that the appearance of an agent was a wholly new event in that place, for we were sometimes favored with their presence, though Father Mason's two round, clear-eyed glasses were said to look rather obliquely upon the mass of them, and they usually confined themselves to the new portion of the town.

"Little pitchers have big ears;" and there was a little pitcher in Miss Agnes's parlor, who sometimes heard it hinted that Father Mason was "old fashioned," not to say obstinate; that he did not keep up with the demands of the church; and unless he could be made to see his failure, they could not expect to "*compete*" with the Second Society, or even the Methodists and Episcopalians, who had already come in and erected the banners of their respective creeds; the bearing of which remarks little pitcher by no means comprehended then. But this announcement was clear: this man would speak of Africa, that wondrous land "beyond the line," of which Uncle Steve had told Ad'line and me—where "they raised lions, and tigers, and the hump-backed camels," pictures of which he had drawn for us in the wet beach sand before his door, where the whole sea coast was edged by a border of bright gold dust. Had I not spent hour after hour, when Miss Agnes thought me conning the lesson in the geography before me, at the picture of the Sphynx, in traversing the great desert, feeling its hot breath upon my cheek, its burning sands scorching my feet, boundless, vast, and silent, as the great luminous sky above my head?

And so I listened eagerly to each word the preacher let fall that afternoon, and they were many; but, oh! what a different Africa than the one of Uncle Steve's picturing! My warm, rich, luminous image was blotted out in the universal darkness, both moral and physical, in which the speaker shrouded the "Swart Mother of Nations." With his measured, sepulchral tones, he dwelt upon the curse of Canaan, and the terrible punishment which awaited the sloth and selfishness of the churches in withholding the means of conversion, until I shuddered with terror, and expected to see Miss Agnes and every one tear off their rich jewels and clothing, and, wrapping about them the sackcloth and ashes, of which the preacher spoke as most befitting their sins, go at once to the perishing nations of Africa. I judged like a child. I had not learned the difference between sentiment and earnest belief. Miss Agnes did no such thing; she merely wiped away her tears that the speaker's flowery peroration had drawn forth, and joining Miss Moore, they walked home, discussing the minister's style, his looks, his manner, his small, white hands; then, Miss Agnes quoted some passages from Dumas's "Sinai," a copy of which, presented by Cousin Ralph, always lay, with her French dictionary and grammar, in a conspicuous place on her parlor table, and Miss Fanny rejoined with some stanzas from Mrs. Hemans's "Traveller at the Source of the Nile;" and this was all.

No; for that week the reverend gentleman attended Miss Agnes home from the sewing circle, and followed up the acquaintance by frequent calls, often remaining to dinner or tea, doing ample justice to the good things of the table, while he descanted, in that suave, subdued, but rather sweet voice of his, on self-sacrifice and devotion, and how remarkably and beautifully these virtues had been in all ages illustrated by woman.

Miss Agnes early introduced me to his notice, and told my story.

"Ah, a suggestion of Mr. Ralph Annesley's. I had the honor to meet that gentleman at the house of a friend, while attending the Anniversaries in New York, some two or three years since. He seemed strongly tinctured with the pernicious dogmas of the times—the pride of human reason; but Providence sometimes chooses to work with strange instruments, and can make even the wrath of man to praise Him. I can scarcely conceive how a person bound in the sweet ties of relationship to yourself, and enjoying the inestimable advantage of your society, can hold such errors."

Miss Agnes blushed, and made answer, that her Cousin Ralph's errors were indeed a source of great grief to her; but she really believed he had a good heart.

"The heart; aye, my dear Miss Lathrop, we cannot judge such people by the heart. The unregenerate heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. He may be charitable, benevolent, virtuous, and honest; but I need not tell you that these are but the cloak, the poor filthy rags, which deluded morality and self-righteousness wrap around their victims," returned Mr. Tyler, with a mournful sway of the head, that gave an undulating motion to the unctuous folds of his double chin, within the barrier of the loose folds of his white cravat. "The impulse which actuated him in this affair—at best, but a blind movement of fallen humanity—and the truly enlightened feeling which led you to snatch this child," he added, with a wave of his white fat hand toward me, "as a brand from the burning, are as widely different as light and darkness. You must not let your tender womanly nature confound them, my dear friend."

The soft hand fell slowly, as if by accident, upon the small digits of Miss Agnes, that rested upon the table, and the "Brand," as Mr. Tyler often designated me, was sent to the kitchen, not to be consumed upon the fire—before which Hannah Smith was cooking a nice veal cutlet for that gentleman's supper, he having passed through some very exhausting trials, in pursuance of his arduous duties, during the past week, and having, at best, but a "delicate appetite," Miss Agnes said, with a timid, little, blushing air, when she had come to the kitchen to give her orders—no, not to be burned, but to ensconce myself in a corner, out of Miss Smith's way, and think over Mr. Ralph's dark face, his clear, honest glance, his full, distinct tones, and wonder what made them think him so wicked. He was not a bit like old Grannie Hunt, or like Polly Maria, or myself, the three types of wickedness with which I was most familiar. There was no question about my state, for I felt then that I would much rather live with Mr. Annesley than Mr. Tyler, though the latter, when he spoke to me at all, always used the tone which he deemed most impressive to a "Brand," and reminded me of the state from which I had been snatched, and of my obligations to my mistress; and my memory of Mr. Ralph recalled no such tender interest.

Miss Agnes had been accustomed to examine me in my studies daily, ever since I had been to school; but as the weeks went on, my lessons were more than usually interrupted. Somehow, Mr. Tyler's advent seemed to interrupt the whole house. Hannah Smith no longer laid out work for months beforehand, but went about her department with a look of solemn, patient endurance upon her face, varied occasionally by a glance of commiseration at Miss Agnes, while the latter was constantly falling into reveries, seemingly very delightful, from which she would start, at the first word, with a blush, and all manner of pretty, childish airs of confusion, begging pardon over and over again, of Hannah, for her inattention. Sometimes, in the midst of my lessons, she would vary the routine, and give glowing descriptions of the East, and ask me—

"Would I not like to devote my life to the nations that sit in darkness, as a missionary?"

Dear Miss Agnes, how her eye kindled, and gathered depth and firmness, as she spoke! How her whole figure seemed to grow strong and erect with the strength of a noble purpose! The pretty, delicate, somewhat faded rose, had taken a draught from the perennial spring of life, and the subtle element brought not only freshness and beauty, but strength and earnestness, and that overflowing love which would make all the world happier in its happiness! It is a woman's experience—often, alas! brief as the life of a rose; but the fragrance and perfume of those moments lingers over the weary after life, and ascends to Heaven—who shall say with what a power of supplication for pardon and forgiveness for all after errors!

I needed not Miss Agnes's glance, nor enthusiastic words, to enlist my childish sympathy in the topic which so occupied her thought. Ever since Mr. Tyler's sermon which had so excited my imagination, I had longed to be a missionary. No other object, or way of life, seemed to me of any importance to this. Every child can doubtless look back to a like experience; every one will doubtless recall, too, with a sigh or a smile, as the experience of after years may dictate, the doubts and struggles which the discrepancy between the practice of those whom he had been taught to respect and reverence, and their words, raised in his mind. He does not know, as yet, that the giant fiend "Unbelief" rules the world with a power far more extensive than ever possessed by Pope or Kaiser, and that his strongholds are not all confined to the banks of the Ganges or the Nile.

Part of this childish but painful experience was spared me by Miss Agnes and several of her friends. They became very much impressed with the duty of retrenchment in dress, but they did not put on sackcloth, or even serge. They exchanged their dressy *shirred* hats, with their clusters of Persian lilac, or heliotrope, for those made of rich white satin, made very plain, and trimmed with soft creamy folds of the same material—their striped, plaided, flounced silks, and gaily-tinted bareges and muslins, for plain black satin, Quaker-colored French merinoes, and India muslins, guiltless of spot. To be sure, the latter cost as much or more than the former—twice or thrice as much as the gaudy outfit of the factory girl, for whose benefit they set this example; but they *meant* well. Of this I am certain; and who shall say that the satins of Miss Agnes, and the flimsy finery of the operative, do not count equal, in the eyes of the angels, with the sackcloth of Saint Theresa, or the hair shirt of Saint Ignatius?

Of course, the reader will infer by this time that Miss Agnes was about to marry the Rev. Mark Tyler, A. B., with the prospect of going out as a missionary to Africa, as soon as the reverend gentleman should receive his appointment. The affair was duly discussed by all Chesterwood. I believe that most people thought it a "good thing," but there were some dissenters among Miss Agnes's own circle, who, it is supposed, had her interest most at heart, and one of the most active of these was Miss Harriet Hart. She did not joke her friend, like Miss Griffiths, or Miss Beach, or sincerely sympathize in her happiness with tearful-eyed Fanny Moore; she was too "superior" to do that. But she overwhelmed her with responsibilities; she humbled her to the dust, by showing her, in her great love for truth, all her weaknesses—dexterously hunting out each little foible; and then sincerely trusted she might not have mistaken a mere earthly passion for the Christian fortitude and devotion which alone could support her in such a position—a position from which *she*, (how the silks rustled as she said this,) with all her strength of character, "had ever shrunk from assuming."

Poor Miss Agnes! Would that on that pretty head of thine, self-esteem had risen like a promontory; but perhaps, after all, it would not have made thee a better or more loveable woman than the humble, trusting faith, that answered, amid tears—

"I can *suffer*, Harriet, dear! This deep love which I feel for—for Marcus, will make me strong to do that!"

"I am afraid you mistake, Agnes. You are not made of such stuff as martyrs are!"

But the mistake was Miss Hart's. Many a martyr is made of just such stuff as Miss Agnes Lathrop, but they do not go in public to Smithfield or Valladolid, or even to Boston Common. They do not say, with Madame Roland, "Oh, Liberty! how many crimes are committed in thy name!"—many of them may be ignorant of that famous woman's existence—but they are slowly roasted in private, before a domestic fire kindled by unthinking egotism, and kept alive by morbid irritability; or are suffocated by the close atmosphere of a home, whose narrow creed forbids them to follow the bent of their genius, even to share in the innocent recreations of life; or they suffer the slower torture of a thousand and one petty, tormenting exactions and reproofs, that, like the exquisite torture of the water, dropping at regular intervals upon the head of the unhappy victim of the Inquisition, madden, or render idiotic, before they kill, while they, poor souls, accept their condition as the dispensation of a good Providence—praying ever for patience to bear, but never for wisdom to emancipate themselves and their yoke mates from this bondage, into the truth which alone can make them free.

Yet these are the women men admire and love; who are content, as a reverend gentleman recently expressed it, in a public lecture, "to go through life, tenderly leaning upon the arm of man." A sentiment worthy of the Rev. Marcus Tyler. And they are worthy of love, even as Agnes Lathrop, with all her weakness and silliness, was more loveable than the hard, steel-natured Miss Hart; only let all good souls pray that they may find that arm strong and steady—a protection even from their own weakness, as it should be; and that, happier than Miss Agnes, they may have the wisdom to see that this love—God be thanked for it!—can not only teach them to suffer, but has a power beyond all others, to make them strong and noble, and place them breast high to the noblest man that ever lived. That man was certainly not the Rev. Marcus Tyler.

For the National Era.

DAY DREAMS.

BY MAUD.

E'en from the day-break, till the night's dun curtain
Spreads o'er the West,
Dreaming I go, with swift steps but uncertain,
On to the unknown rest.

Because life's road is dusty and uneven,
And weary is the way,
Ever before there gleams some mirage haven,
Where Hope her flight may stay.

Out from the bright clouds, that are earthward stooping,
Rise the fair castle walls;
I see Peace's white flag from its turrets drooping—
I see its open halls.

I almost hear the winds low whispering voices,
Bending the green-leaved trees;
Or where the fountain in the sun rejoices,
Hear the birds' melodies.

But some rough-world jar breaks upon my dreaming,
Like a harsh bell at morn;
I turn again to where its walls were gleaming,
And, sighing, find it gone.

Then others rise, as in some Eastern story,
And forward far off lay;
But all, alas! tinged with an earth-born glory,
And soon to pass away.

At the road's end the view that meets my vision,
With awe my spirit fills;
I see dark death-clouds covering lands elysian,
And adamantine hills.

And wandering, dreamy, idle, and unthinking,
Unheeding where I go,
I look at the stern mountain summits, and see, shrinking,
The dark clouds darker grow.

But turning earnest to the life-path dreary,
And smoothing down the way
For some poor tried one, following sad and weary,
And putting dreams away.

Then o'er the eternal hills the light seems dawning,
Through the dull, cloudy screen,
Telling young dreamers that now, in their morning,
Life is to act, not dream.

AFFAIRS IN KANSAS.

LECOMPTON, KANSAS, *Dec.* 12, 1856.

To the Editor of the National Era:

In accordance with the statutes enacted at the Shawnee Mission, the bogus Legislature met here at noon to-day. After seven ballotings in the morning, and another in the afternoon, Mathias was chosen Speaker of the House. As the Council holds over from last year, the same officers retain their places in that body, of which Thomas Johnson is President.

No business of an exciting interest came up to-day, except the passage of a resolution, offered by General Eastin in the Council, providing for the admission of all reporters. Immediately upon its being read, General Richardson, the commander of the late Southern army of invasion, arose, and objected to its passage. He gave as his reason, that he saw present, among the reporters, Mr. Phillips, of the New York *Tribune*, who, he said, while in Leavenworth last summer, on being asked by a Pro-Slavery gentleman of that place if he had procured the facts concerning the ravishing of some women in the southern part of the Territory, replied that he "had not, but would have them before night." General Richardson inferred from this that Mr. Phillips would manufacture them himself. Of course, if Mr. Phillips could be so base—which he is far from being—he would hardly tell it to a man he knew to be Pro-Slavery. Richardson said, if a resolution of such a general character was carried, Mr. Phillips could take a seat under it, which he thought would be a great injury. Mr. Rees, who, I believe, professes to be a Free State man, wished to see its adoption, as it would give the members of the Council an opportunity of looking upon Abolition curiosities. "He would even be willing to admit Horace Greeley himself, just to see what kind of a human being he was." The resolution was finally adopted, by a respectable vote. The House, I believe, also passed one similar to that of the Council.

No official communication was had between the two Houses, nor between them and the Governor. Consequently, the latter has not sent in his message. He has refused advance copies to the press.

The Pro-Slavery Law and Order Convention, called some time since by Stringfellow, in his paper, (the *Squatter Sovereign*,) and which was intended to finish up the business left undone by that which sat at Leavenworth City a few weeks ago, assembled here to-day. The members at first met this morning at eight o'clock, in secret caucus. They again met at three this afternoon, and organized temporarily, by electing Col. Coffee, Chairman *pro tem.*, and then adjourned to seven o'clock this evening. In this session "came the tug of war," between a small faction of some twenty-five conservative Pro-Slavery men on the one side, and the Stringfellow men, who comprised the remainder of the delegation, on the other. The strife was opened in this wise: pending the discussion of a resolution providing for the appointment of a Committee on Credentials, Dr. Stringfellow moved as an amendment to the same—

"Whereas this is a Convention of the Pro-Slavery men, for the purpose of forwarding the interests of the institution of Slavery; and

"Whereas a Committee on Credentials is to be appointed by the Chair; therefore,

"*Resolved*, That no person who is not in favor of making Kansas a slave State shall be allowed a seat in this body, or have his claims to one considered by said committee."

Stringfellow made a long and fiery speech in favor of the amendment, saying *he* had first issued the call for the Convention, and was therefore better qualified to judge of its character. He said it was his intention that the call should extend to the regular Border Ruffians alone, and that it was generally so understood in the river counties. He wished no man who did not hold the idea of introducing Slavery into Kansas above everything else, and who would not labor for such introduction at any cost and at any sacrifice, to have a seat or voice in the Convention.

Newsom, of Tecumseh, followed, in opposition to the amendment, and in defence of the law and order principles of the party. He said there were several delegates present who would prefer that Kansas should be a free State; that they had been properly chosen, and could be objected to in no other way and for no other reason, for they were as ready as any Pro-Slavery man in the Territory to stand up and fight for the bogus code of laws. This he thought should be the only test.

Stringfellow made a few remarks in reply, when the previous question was ordered, the amendment adopted by more than a third majority, and the resolution as amended passed unanimously. This result decided beyond the possibility of a doubt the character of the Convention. It showed that more than two thirds of the delegates of which it was composed were men of Stringfellow's political school, and ready to do his bidding; that their object was something more than the enforcement of the Territorial laws; and that they were willing to force Slavery upon Kansas, at any cost and at any sacrifice. Ah! Kansas is still far from being free.

On the passage of the amendment, the law and order Free State delegates, some five or six in number, immediately left the hall. Dr. Wood, however, who testified before the Congressional Investigating Committee last summer, that he was a Free State man, but in favor of supporting the existing Territorial laws, remained. He felt great anxiety about the difficulties which arose from the Stringfellow resolution, and even arose once, and gravely informed that it was necessary for the Convention to be an unit at present. He said that *this was not the time to break it up in a row.* Another delegate thought the same thing, and added, that he had just learned that there were several Abolition reporters present, taking notes, and intimated that either delegates must be more careful in their language and actions, or the reporters expelled from the hall. Considerable talk of doing the latter was heard, but a few of the more considerate succeeded in keeping down such a spirit for the present, but I do not think they will continue able to do so long.

The last business of the evening was the appointment of a committee to report nominees for permanent officers of the Convention. The ticket has been concocted long since, and the nomination of the committee will be merely formal. There will be a regular list of ruffians.

K.

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

THIRD SESSION.

Tuesday, January 27, 1857.

SENATE.

Mr. Wilson presented the petition of the Humane Society of Massachusetts, asking Congress to grant $20,000 for establishing and supporting a life-boat and mortar stations on the coast of that State.

Mr. Wilson said that this Society was the oldest in the country. They have sixty life-boats and five mortar stations and several buildings on the coast of that State, for the safety of shipwrecked seamen.

The Senate then entered into a debate upon the Indian appropriation bill. Some amendments were made; after which, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported the amended tariff bill, perfecting the former one so far as the majority of the committee were concerned. He stated that it reduces the annual revenue $14,000,000.

The House discussed the bill giving each branch of Congress entire control of its contingent fund, without the revision of accounting officers of the Treasury.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, saw no necessity for such a law, conceiving that it would be unconstitutional.

Mr. Cobb, of Georgia, said that the House had not sank so low as to refuse to review the action of the First Comptroller, who had undertaken to lecture the House, not only for increasing the salaries of their officers, but their own.

Mr. Jones inquired, whether Mr. Cobb ever heard of any case where a Comptroller refused to allow the vouchers of the Clerk of this House, when certified by the Committee of Accounts?

Mr. Cobb replied, if the Comptroller never so refused, the evidence is conclusive that the Committee of Accounts have discharged their duties, even to the satisfaction of the Comptroller. [Laughter.]

The further consideration of the bill was postponed until to-morrow.

The Senate sub-marine telegraph bill was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union on the tariff bill.

Mr. Maxwell defended the positions of the President in his annual message, and vindicated the principles of the Democratic party.

The House took a recess till seven o'clock, for debate. About a dozen members were present at the time appointed. Messrs. Scott and Perry generally indicated that they wished to review the President's message, and obtain permission to print their speeches.

The House then adjourned.

Wednesday, January 28, 1857.

SENATE.

The President of the Senate laid before the body a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting copies of the official army register for 1857; which was read, and laid on the table.

Also, from the same, announcing that room No. 11, in the basement story of the north wing of the Capitol Extension, is finished, and ready for occupation; which was read, and laid on the table.

Mr. Jones, of Iowa, presented a joint resolution from the Legislature of Iowa, as follows:

Whereas, under the Constitution of the United States, Freedom is national, and Slavery sectional; and believing that the peace and welfare and honor of the country imperiously require that our national domain shall be preserved free for the homes of freemen; and believing it to have been the policy of our fathers, dictated by reason and exalted patriotism, to inhibit the extension of Slavery, and make Freedom the law of national progress: therefore

Resolved, &c., That we are unqualifiedly opposed to the further extension of Slavery within the jurisdiction or by the sanction of the General Government, and insist that Congress shall exert all constitutional power to preserve our national territory free.

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to exert their influence and vote for the admission of Kansas into the Union as a free State, and to oppose its admission with a Constitution establishing or tolerating Slavery.

Mr. Douglas, from the Committee on Territories, to which was referred House bill to establish a separate judicial district south of the Gila, and to create the office of Surveyor General therein; to provide for the adjudication of certain land claims; to grant donations to actual settlers; to survey certain lands; to provide for the representation of the inhabitants of the "Gadsden purchase," in the Territorial Legislature of New Mexico, and for other purposes, reported it back, with an amendment, striking out all after the enacting clause, &c.

Mr. Douglas asked the immediate consideration of the amendment. As to-morrow was the day set apart for Territorial business in the other branch, it was necessary that it should be promptly acted on.

Mr. Fessenden would prefer that it be permitted to lie over, as he desired to examine the amendment.

Mr. Douglas assented, and gave notice that he would call it up to-morrow.

On motion by Mr. Wilson,

Resolved, That the Committee on Foreign Relations be instructed to inquire into the expediency of sending a commission to the islands of the East India Archipelago, with power to investigate the claims to sovereignty which the Government of the Netherlands asserts to possess over the most of these islands, and to form treaties with such independent States and tribes as may be found therein of sufficient power and importance to render such treaties necessary.

Mr. Hale moved that the Senate adjourn; which motion having precedence, was put by the Chair, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

After an appropriate prayer by the Rev. Mr. Hill, Chaplain to the Senate, the Journal of yesterday was read.

And then, on motion of Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, the House adjourned.

THE CITY OF CHICAGO.—Chicago spent for municipal improvements, last year, $550,534. This was laid out in city buildings, water and gas improvements, and other city works. Private enterprise is estimated to have laid out $4,746,300 in private dwellings, stores, railroad buildings, churches, &c. Total value of the improvements, $5,207,134—an increase of $1,561,880 since 1855. There are eight new churches and five large hotels.

For the National Era.

TO THE POET, R. H. STODDARD,

On reading his Songs of Summer.

BY W. L. SHOEMAKER.

I.

I thank thee for thy book of Summer Songs,
A book whose beauty o'er my spirit flings
The light and glory of all Summer things,
That seem to rise supreme o'er Winter's wrongs,
Thou singing: yes, I see again the throngs
That follow Summer with delighted wings;
I hear their hymns, and wild bees' murmurings,
Courting each flower that unto her belongs.
Thou bringest back the rose in all its bloom,
In shadowy arbors where the lover's heart
Is heard to throb amid the tender gloom,
And eyes look love that words could ne'er impart:
Youth, beauty, love, seem fairer by thy art,
Even when thou twinest a garland round their tomb.

II.

Such praise is thine; but more than this is thine:
Native to every clime thy spirit seems,
And all their passion thrills along thy line:
With thee I stroll by oriental streams,
Or lose myself in sweet, voluptuous dreams,
Where Summer suns o'er hills Italian shine;
Or from the Past, undying splendor gleams,
O'er vales Sicilian, and old Greece divine.
Nor seldom thou a higher theme dost try—
Higher, and of more potent melody:
We thrill to hear Demeter's anguished cry,
Searching in vain for lost Persephone:
And, awed and charmed, we follow in its quest,
The passionate heart that sings "The Burden of Unrest."

III.

I sat and read them in a Winter night,
These Songs of Summer; when the light-winged snow
Streamed from a dismal sky, and earth below
Lay, like a corpse, wrapt in its pall of white;
And winds were roaring with a voice of might,
That sometimes sank to sounds of wail and woe—
The while my spirit felt a Summer glow,
Lulled by sweet music, lapped in soft delight.
These little songs, nestling in snow-white leaves,
Seemed like small birds warbling, in orange bowers,
Notes, now of joy, and now of love's sad smart.
I blessed the art that sweetly so deceives,
With gracious magic, Winter's darkened hours,
And makes a Summer in the willing heart.

Georgetown, D. C., Jan. 23, 1857.

For the National Era.

THE CONTRAST OF LIBERTY AND SLAVERY.

Sir Philip Sidney once said of Alexander, that he received more true bravery of mind from the pattern of Achilles, than by hearing the definition of fortitude.

And the human mind is educated, on all subjects, better and faster by pattern than by precept; for, as "a mirror for magistrates" shows us, "Example hastens deeds to good effects."

The writer of this has been impressed by an examination—somewhat careful—into the comparative progress (in all that is substantial in the prosperity of a State or Nation) of *Freedom*, as contrasted with *Slavery*, not only as that contrast is seen between the North and the South, as a whole, but in those Free and Slave States which came into the Union cotemporaneously—the latter as make-weights, or a counterpoise in the scales of the Confederacy, which now seem to hang almost in even balance, as if uncertain which scale shall preponderate.

Thomas a Kempis has said, "it is wise to turn examples of all sorts to one's advantage;" and we propose to do this, in giving a contrasted view of Freedom and Slavery, in the race of empire, as the contrast is presented in the history of those States which came into the Union at or about the same time.

We begin with Ohio and Louisiana: the former, admitted into the Union November 29, 1802; the latter, April 8, 1812.

Previous to the admission of Ohio as a State, in 1802, Freedom and Slavery were represented, in the halls of our National Legislature, each by eight Sovereign States of the Confederacy.

As to *numbers*, the Free and Slave States then stood on an equality, although, in the distribution of State patronage or place, under the General Government, the Slave States then, as at almost every subsequent quadrennial period of our national history, received the lion's share.

And, of our National area at that period, the Slave States, with a population 21,915 *less* than the Free, measured 131,007 square *miles*, or 13,100,700 square *acres more* than the Free; a balance of State area, in favor of the former, larger than all New England, (65,038 square miles,) and nearly as large as the New England and Middle States together, (179,622 square miles)—a territorial balance in favor of the Slave Power, which has since been increased by the addition of another balance-item of 107,904 square miles: thus giving to the Slave States, not Territories, in 1850, with their population of only 9,664,656, (including the 3,204,313 slaves owned by 347,525 masters,) 851,508 square miles, against 612,597 square miles in the Free States, with their population of 13,434,922 free men; both items (131,007 and 109,90) making an aggregate balance in our National State area, of 238,911 square miles, or 152,903,040 square acres, in favor of human bondage; a division of State area which, after making the Slave States equal with the Free, would give to each one of the 347,525 slaveholders in the Union a snug little plantation of more than 400 acres, as his share in the division of spoils between these two sections of the Union.

Thus has Slavery struck the national balance at two periods in our history: (1st,) at the commencement of the present century; and, (2d,) in 1850.

And it is but the statement of a plain and incontrovertible fact to affirm that the Slave States of the Union have, as a whole, an advantage over the Free, in climate, soil, and production, and also in many other natural advantages for adding to their material prosperity, and that they might have had, under the prestige of free institutions, all the commercial, manufacturing, social, literary, moral, and religious advantages which are so abundantly enjoyed by the free North.

But what have been the *facts*, as developed in the cotemporaneous history and growth—in all that elevates a people—of those States which came into the Union about the same time, and which have since been running the race of empire, side by side?

We propose to elicit an answer to this question from the cotemporary history of those States that came into the Union by couplets, four of them, at least, twin sisters in their National birth.

We begin the examination with

OHIO AND LOUISIANA.

the former admitted to State privileges, as a member of the Confederacy, in 1802; the latter, in 1812.

That we may form an intelligent estimate in the premises, a brief reference to the previous history of these two States seems necessary.

As to the length of time which has elapsed since these two portions of our country first began to be settled, Louisiana has a very great advantage over Ohio, in the fact that the territory now embraced within the limits of Louisiana was explored in 1682, (106 years before the first permanent settlement in Ohio,) by M. La Salle, a French gentleman, from whom it received its present name, in honor of Louis XIV of France, surnamed "the Great," also styled *Dieu-Donne*, or God-given.

The first settlement of Louisiana was attempted in 1684, and the second—a more successful attempt—in 1699, by M. Iberville, who founded a Colony on the Missisippi.

This was soon followed by other efforts to colonize this country—especially one made by M. Crozat, a French capitalist of large means, who monopolized the entire trade of the Delta of the Mississippi, and above its mouths, for a number of years.

In 1717, or about that time, M. Crozat disposed of his interest in the Colony to a French Co., with a Royal Charter from Louis XV, the "Well Beloved," (a surname which he lost,) under the auspices of John Law, a Scotchman, and the celebrated projector of "*Law's Bubble*," as *the scheme* was derisively termed—the most ruinous speculation of modern times—a chartered French banking monopoly, (with whose history, no doubt, Gen. Jackson was familiar,) by whose profits the national debt of France was to have been speedily paid off, and whose shares rose, at one time, to upwards of 20 fold their par value, exceeding, in 1719, by more than 80 times, the entire amount of all the specie then in France. This was the year before "*Law's Bubble*" burst, almost annihilating the French Government, and, in the explosion, ruining thousands of the moneyed aristocracy of France.

In 1731, this Co. conveyed all their interests in the Colony to the Crown of France, which power held it for 31 years, and then ceded the same Spain in 1762.

Twenty-eight years after this, or in 1800, this territory was re-ceded to France, and three years afterwards, or in 1803, it was sold by her First Consul, Bonaparte, to the United States, for $15,000,000.

This was the year after Ohio was admitted into the Union.

Thus Louisiana—previous to assuming a place in the Confederacy of States—had more than a century in which, had she been able, to lay the foundation and initiate the fortunes of one of the most prosperous and rapidly-growing States of the Union, after she became a member of the Confederacy. Ohio, on the contrary, a portion of our country ceded to the General Government by Connecticut, New York, and Virginia, did not have a single permanent white family within her territory until 1788, (104 years after the first effort to settle Louisiana,) when Marietta was settled by a Colony from New England.

This was only 14 years before Ohio stood, in all the strength of a strong Territory, and with the energy of a free people, knocking for admission into the Union. A second settlement was commenced in 1789, on Symmes's purchase, near Cincinnati.

In 1791, a French Colony settled at Gallipolis, on the Ohio river.

In 1796, two Colonies from New England settled at Cleveland and in that vicinity. In 1799, the first Territorial Legislature met at Cincinnati; and in 1800 the "*Western Reserve*," then under the jurisdiction of Connecticut, was sold by the latter State for the benefit of her "*School Fund*."

Thus Ohio, instead of being paid for out of the public Treasury to the tune of $15,000,000, as was Louisiana, had to emancipate herself, in part, from a foreign ownership, in the purchase of a large share of her State domain.

Such were some of the antecedents of these two States, before they came into the Union—a reference to which has seemed pertinent to a candid and impartial view of the history of these two State proteges of Freedom and of Slavery.

We are now prepared, not only in the light of their examples and histories as States, but in view of their antecedent Colonial and Territorial history, to consider this contrast between Liberty and Slavery, as presented in the concurrent history of

OHIO AND LOUISIANA,

two sovereign and independent States of the Confederacy. The resume will be taken up in a succeeding article. S. DAY.

Bellows Falls, Vt., Jan. 16, 1857.

UNITED STATES MINISTER INTERFERING WITH EUROPEAN POLITICS.

Speaking of the Neufchatel difficulty, the *Oesterreischesche Correspondenz* says:

"The English papers say that the endeavors of the British and North American ministers at Berne to arrange the Neufchatel difference failed, because the representatives of the other States were not empowered to agree to their proposition. In order that things may be properly understood, some explanation of the foregoing intelligence will now be given.

"The Imperial Royal Cabinet fully shares the wish of the other Powers, to prevent the conflict which seems so near at hand. The present state of things has, however, been brought about by the contempt shown to the rights of a closely allied sovereign, which rights are secured by treaty, and inattention to the well-meant counsels given to the Swiss authorities by the different Governments. Austria is convinced of the conciliatory intentions of his Majesty the King of Prussia, and she does all that is in her power to confirm him in them, but she does not consider that she has any legal right to enter into engagements or to make promises—either singly or collectively—by which the legal sovereign would be induced to renounce his sovereign rights over Neufchatel.

"If the Swiss federal authorities should listen to the well-meant demand and counsel of the Powers, and quash the indictments against those persons concerned in the recent occurrences in the canton of Neufchatel, King Frederick William IV may, if he should please so to do, take into consideration the situation of his Neufchatel subjects, and the general situation of affairs in Europe, and give a proof of his benevolence and political wisdom, by a magnanimous act of high policy. From her point of view, Austria is not at liberty to enter into any moral engagements which could influence another Power to renounce its legal rights.

"This consideration was the determining (*entscheidend*) cause of the refusal of the representative of the Imperial Royal Government at Berne, to share in the project for effecting a compromise."

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* thus comments on the above:

"Reliable private information about to be given, and the foregoing Ministerial explanation, will enable you to form a tolerably correct idea of the position which Austria will occupy while the Neufchatel question is under discussion. The use of the word "determining," in the last paragraph of the article of the *Oesterreichische Correspondenz* deserves particular notice, as it is a diplomatic way of saying that Baron von Mensshengen, the Austrian minister at Berne, had more than one reason for declining to take *any share in the project of intervention proposed by Messrs. Gordon and Fay, the representatives of Great Britain and of the United States. The Washington Government has repeatedly denied the right of any European State to meddle in American matters, and therefore Austria is unwilling to recognise the right of the United States to interfere in a question which concerns only those Powers that were parties to the treaties of* 1815, and to the protocol signed in London in 1852. The Vienna Cabinet expresses a strong desire to see the Neufchatel differences settled without an appeal to arms, but it is greatly inclined to insist on the prisoners being surrendered at discretion. By disclaiming all right to exact from Prussia a promise that she will renounce her rights on Neufchatel, Austria not only places herself on a good footing with her German ally, but directs her attention to the fact that Louis Napoleon has recently attempted to play the part of European dictator at her expense. There is good reason for believing that this Government has resolved to place corps of observation on the frontiers of Tessin and of the Verarlberg, as soon as the Prussians begin their march to Schaffhausen and Basle. The idea of an occupation of Tessin and Vaud, and of eventual dismemberment of Switzerland, has been entirely relinquished, *it having occurred to the Austrians that nothing would be more agreeable to the Emperor of the French than to witness a violation of the treaties of* 1815 *by the German Powers.*"

BURNING OF A SLAVE IN ALABAMA.—We find the following account of the burning of a slave at Abbeville, Ala., in the *Eufaula Native*. The crime for which he was burned was the murder of his master;

"A large concourse of people was assembled at Abbeville, numbering from 4,000 to 5,000. The negro was taken from the jail by the guard; no opposition was offered by the Sheriff. The place was arranged before the negro arrived. A green pine stake was set in the ground firmly, and around that a pile of fat pine was arranged, in diameter about six feet, and about four feet high. He was bound head and feet to the pole, and before fire was placed to the pole, the wretch made the following confession, 'That he had murdered his master, but would not have done it, had it not been for a white man.' He made some other confessions, implicating a white man and another negro in the affair.

"Our informant says, that when he left, the fire had already consumed his head, legs, and feet, and that they were piling on more wood to finish the body."

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

CUBA.—The total population of this island, in 1855, is estimated at about 1,446,462, divided in the following proportions:

White population	564,693, or 39 per cent.
Free colored	219,170, or 15 "
Slave	662,599, or 46 "

The ratio in which the island has attained its present population is thus given:

Population in	1775	170,370
Do.	1817	551,998
Do.	1827	704,486
Do.	1841	1,007,624
Do.	1850	1,247,230
Do.	1856	1,446,462

The estates of the island of Cuba have been proportioned as follows, which is probably as correct an estimate as is attainable, though for its correctness we have no certain means of vouching:

Sugar estates	1,442	Tobacco estates	912
Coffee estates	1,682	Grazing farms	9,930

The total products are conceived to be about $60,000,000 annually, of which the following are the most important items:

Value of sugar	$18,699,924
Fruits	14,839,050
Molasses	1,462,728
Total	$35,201,652

The imports of the island for the year 1852 were about $30,000,000, being in excess of the exports some $2,000,000. Of the imports, $6,850,000 were from the United States; and of the exports, nearly one-half of the whole amount were sent hither. The total revenue from all sources, legitimate and those devised by the peculiar ingenuity of extortion possessed by Spanish policy, reached, in 1852, possibly $16,000,000. The *bona fide* revenue of the island, however, among civilized publicists, would hardly be placed, at present, above $12,000,000.

TRADE OF THE GREAT LAKES.—The extent of the commerce of the Lakes may be estimated by the commerce of the Lake ports. During the past fifteen years, the value of the trade of the Lakes has swelled from $65,000,000 in 1841, to $608,310,320 in 1856; and the whole of this grand aggregate, with the exception of $42,260,000 set down for Sackett's Harbor, Cape Vincent, Oswegatchie, Genesee, and Niagara, came through the following ports:

Buffalo	$303,023,000	Milwaukie	$35,000,000
Chicago	223,898,000	Maumee	94,107,000
Clevel'd	162,185,640	Sandusky	59,966,000
Detroit	140,000,000	Oswego	146,335,000

With the exception of Buffalo and Oswego, these are all ports of the Northwest, whose trade has been the result of its development during a very brief period; and the great bulk of the trade of Buffalo and Oswego is derived from the same cause.

The tonnage employed on the great Lakes is shown in the following table, and does not include any ocean or river tonnage:

	Tons.		Tons.
Illinois	1,742	Ohio (lake tonnage)	11,856
Wisconsin	1,451	New York	22,534
Michigan	7,843		
Total			45,426

This is one-twelfth of the total tonnage owned by the United States, and about one-fifth of the total amount employed in the coasting trade.

RAILROADS IN THE WORLD.—The whole number of miles of railroad in the world on the 1st of July last was, it is said, inside of 50,000 miles. Of this amount, more than half (27,850 miles) is in the United States. Railroads were started in England, and yet in ten years we passed her. At the present time, the model Republic has three times as many miles of railroad as Great Britain and France united. The following table, showing the miles of railroads in different countries, we clip from a report made to Congress some three weeks since:

In the U. S.	27,350	Germany	5,800
Great Britain	8,000	Spain	60
France	2,880	Africa	25
Belgium	531	India	100
Russia	422	Cuba	359
Italy	170	Brit. Provinces	1,600
Sweden	75	Panama	50
Norway	42	South America	60

The average cost of American railways has been estimated to be $40,0 0 a mile, which is rather over than under the mark. The English railways have cost, on an average, $200,000 a mile; the Belgium railways, $90,000; the French railways, $130,000; the German railways, $56,000. Many reasons may be assigned for these variations. The German and American roads have, in general, but one track, the French and English, two. The principle pursued by the English engineers, who also built most of the French roads, was to avoid abrupt curves and steep gradients, by grading and cutting; hence a large increase of expense.

THE WESTERN TERRITORIES.—There is now open for settlement the Territories of Minnesota, Oregon, Nebraska, Washington, New Mexico, Utah, and Kansas. These Territories contain, according to a compendium of the census of 1850, the following area:

	Sq. miles.
Minnesota	166,025
Oregon	585,035
Nebraska	335,882
Washington	123,022
New Mexico	207,008
Utah	269,107
Total	1,286,000
Kansas	114,798

The first-named six Territories contain 1,286,136 square miles of land, and a total area of all the States and Territories belonging to the Union is 1,936,166 square miles; they comprise nearly one half of the whole. They run through some seventeen or eighteen degrees of latitude, and embrace millions of acres of the finest land, and mineral deposits, in the finest climate, and on the finest river in the world.

THE WEALTH OF ILLINOIS.—The astonishing growth of the State of Illinois, and its present promising condition, may be seen from the following figures taken from the returns transmitted to the Auditor of State:

	Pers. prop.	Lands.	Pers. lands & lots.
1855	95,927,235	202,194,170	334,398,425
1854	79,545,953	122,451,334	252,756,568
Incr.	$16,381,282	$79,742,845	$81,641,857

The State lands of Illinois have been nigh all disposed of, under the law passed by the last Legislature offering them to public sale. The number of acres held by the State on the 1st of December, 1854, in the several counties of the State, amounted to 48,827.34 acres. From that time to the 1st of December, 1856, the sales were 42,369.77 acres. The total amount of cash received on the sales was $123,371.77. The number of acres now remaining unsold in the State is 6,457.57, of which almost all is situated in the southern counties.

POPULATION OF WISCONSIN.—The Governor of Wisconsin, in his annual message to the Legislature of that State, says:

"The following statistics are interesting, as exhibiting the rapid increase of our population:

In 1836, our population was	11,683
In 1840, " "	30,945
In 1846, " "	155,277
In 1850, " "	305,391
In 1855, " "	552,109

"The number of votes polled at the last general election was, in round numbers, 120,000. With this basis for an estimate, taking into