THE NEW NATIONAL ERA.
PUBLISHED
EVERY THURSDAY MORNING
At Washington City, D. C.
BY
DOUGLASS BROS.

LEWIS H. DOUGLASS, EDITOR.

PRICE OF SUBSCRIPTIONS: Single copies, $2.50 per year; five copies for $10, payable in advance.

ADDRESS FREDERICK DOUGLASS, Jr., Lock Box 51, Washington, D. C.

NEW NATIONAL ERA.

VOL. V.—NO. 20.] WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1874. [$2.50 a year in advance. 5 Copies for $10.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

TRANSIENT ADVERTISING RATES:

One insertion, per square.....$1 00
Subsequent insertion.....75

The space of ten lines Brevier type constitutes an advertising square in this paper.

Any space less than ten lines is charged the rate of a full square.

All advertisements occupying less than a quarter of a column are computed by the square.

Advertisements inserted for a less time than three months are charged transient rates.

JOB AND BOOK PRINTING,

in all its branches, done with neatness and dispatch. Orders from all parts of the country will be promptly attended to.

Our friends in the Southern States will find it to their advantage to give us their orders for cards handbills, etc., etc.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES.

[THE NEW NATIONAL ERA does not hold itself responsible for views expressed by correspondents. Well written and interesting communications will be gladly received.]

From Virginia.

RICHMOND, VA., May 15, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:

I am one of the few native white men of Virginia who have kept pace with the great revolution for the advancement and improvement of the negro race of this continent, and yet I find myself as popular to-day with our political adversaries as those who have shunk from the responsibilities and results of each advance movement. I regret there are so "few" of my way of thinking, but am powerless to increase the number because the negroes themselves give us no substantial aid. This fact has discouraged us in the *past*, and prevented the successful prosecution of our plans for their welfare, but what shall we say of the immediate *present*, when they, and they alone, can control the conduct of those whose influence in legislation may be for or against their interests, as they shall decide at the polls?" We will very soon be called on to choose who shall represent us in the next Congress of the United States; and, although it is possible the great question of Civil Rights will have been determined before its meeting, no steps have been taken by the colored people to learn the attitude of those who are seeking their support with reference to this most important measure.

I need not go beyond this Congressional District to convince the most skeptical that the negroes are neglecting their solemn duty in the vital crisis to them. They may be heard every day in groups declaring their preference for this or that aspirant for the Congressional nomination without even considering who are for them and who against them.

Thus far I have heard of four candidates—Hon. John Ambler Smith, Rush Burgess, L. H. Chandler, and Andrew Washburn. Neither of these gentlemen have ever indicated that they are in favor of the Civil Rights Bill. Three of them—Smith, Washburn, and Burgess, have availed themselves of past opportunities to define their positions with reference to this question. The former unequivocally opposed, the latter in favor of it, greatly modified, and Washburn too timid to express himself. Now, who else but the man who is unable to rise to the dignity of a man, would stand by and say he prefers either of these three men, pledged as they are against his dearest rights and interests? Each of these aspirants have their adherents among the colored men, every one of whom pray (if they pray at all) every night of their lives that Congress will give them the Civil Rights Bill pure as it came from the soul of the immortal Sumner; and yet they are the bought tools and hired emissaries of these gentlemen to go among their fellow-men and electioneer for them. Shame on the man who thus barters not his own birthright for money, but he it upon him who sells the promotion of his children and grand-children for a few dollars, and the sum so paltry as to be insufficient to clothe decently one of his little ones. Mr. Editor, tell me what encouragement there is to a man to go forward in this great work of disenthralling these people when they are the first to refuse assistance? But for the fact that I have faith in the ultimate result and shall be proud to be enrolled among those who have shown a substantial gratitude to our former slaves by exhausting every conceivable effort for their advancement, I would surrender and give up the unequal contest.

But why, Mr. Editor, should these colored men play the traitor to their own race? Because of their greed for office which leads them to become the slaves of those who dole out the pap. Here, in Richmond, the most active colored men are those who hold some Federal office, who, whenevera public meeting is held, push themselves to the front, and, proclaiming themselves representatives of the negro race, lay down a plan for adoption by the masses. I deny that they are *representatives* of any race. White skinned enough to pass for white men, when among strangers, and ready to resent as an insult the charge that they are negroes, they are no more or less than the representatives of a ring, or some Federal office-holder, who gives them a place that they may "yell" for him or his favorite on all proper occasions. That this condition of affairs will continue to exist, I believe, until you, who are sufficiently intelligent to see through this hypocritical gauze, send some of the best colored men of the North here to tear off the mask from these hypocrites and show them to your people in their true light and characters.

I am too much of a friend of the colored people to be willing to take any step which would jeopardize the educational advantages they now enjoy in the South; but I do not believe the assertion that, to pass the Civil Rights Bill, will be the death-knell of free schools. I know the people of the South too well. They are the finest threateners on earth, while Virginia boasts of excelling New York city in the possession of political tricksters and sharpers. Well, I yield to her the palm in this respect. Virginia at one time threatened to defeat our present constitution, and then voted for it almost unanimously when threats failed to deter us from offering it for adoption. I might cite you to numerous instances of "brag" her Conservative people have played, but I need not do so. The Civil Rights Bill once the law of the land, will be acquiesced in by Virginia with a grace that would make her "niggers" laugh from ear to ear. We are a good people, Mr. Editor—the best on the globe; but we are insolent, and proud, and jealous of everybody who attempts to lead us. Had the Federal authorities at the close of the war insisted upon reinstating slavery, we would have objected, and set them free quicker than lightning.

But, seriously, the Civil Rights Bill is just and proper, and must be passed sooner or later; but its early adoption depends alone upon the negroes of the South. Let them determine to send no man to Congress who is not unequivocally in favor of it. Let them favor no man's nomination even who is opposed to it, and we shall soon find men enough from the South in favor of it to unite with our Northern friends to secure its adoption by the next Congress. If defeated by the present Congress, it will be done by a union of Southern Republicans with Democrats. Our late candidate for Governor claimed it was not a Republican measure, and took grounds opposed to its adoption, and I have no doubt he is still opposed to the bill, and yet we found colored men begging the President to appoint him to the position of Judge of the United States court, where his convictions may do, some day, irreparable damage to the cause of justice.

It never will be a Republican measure so long as the colored men of the South practically oppose it by sending men to Congress whom they know to be opposed to it. With this great responsibility resting upon them, how can they ever forgive themselves if they falter now?

For one, I wipe my hands of all responsibility, and, if the negroes of Virginia fail to send a united delegation to the next Congress pledged to the support of the Civil Rights Bill, it shall not be for want of effort on my part. But their pretended friends say we can't find white men so disposed. Then take a colored man; but there is really no such difficulty. Let the colored men of *this* district say they will support no one unless he is in favor of the measure, and my word for it candidates will spring up faster than asparagus in May.

I have given you the views of a *true* and *tried* friend of the colored people. I have no friend to reward or enemy to punish in thus agitating this subject. I am not a candidate for any office in the gift of the people; and, if I was, I have no money to disburse among those who seem to prefer it to that glorious heritage left them by the great and good Lincoln; but I do want to see these people, my people, with whom I was reared, rise to a proper manhood, and not sit down quietly and see their heritage snatched from them by the wolfish politicians who howl only at night, when they scent the vote of a colored man, and who fear in day time to stand erect and proclaim themselves their friends regardless of the scorns and scowls of their white associates. Let us remember that the *gentlemen* of the Old Dominion, despise the hypocrite, and regard with admiration him who is outspoken in his sentiments.

EQUAL RIGHTS.

LEESBURG, VA., May 26, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:

Leesburg is in a flourishing condition, undergoing financial, mental, and moral improvements. Sunday last was Whit Sunday, and Monday following was generally regarded as a holiday in this section of the country. A base-ball match and a fair were the chief pleasurable resorts of the day.

The match between the Leesburg club and a club from Aldie (Va.) was close and interesting. The game was called at 1 o'clock P. M. After the second inning the clubs and spectators hunted shelter from the apparent pending rain.

After the rain, which lasted an hour, the clubs resumed their former positions on the field and completed the game at 4 o'clock. The Leesburg club was victorious by a score of 41 to 19. The game was umpired by Mr. John Brooks, of Leesburg.

A "fair for the benefit of the New School Baptist Church" was at the same time in operation.

The fair commenced Saturday last and continued to Monday at 12 o'clock P. M.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Harris figured conspicuously in rendering free labor.

A FRIEND.

From West Virginia.

PARKERSBURG, W. VA., May 26, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:

Obituary eulogies, addresses and memorials on the occasion of the death of the Hon. Charles Sumner, the most illustrious friend and champion of the rights of our race, have appeared in all the patriotic newspapers of the land, until, it seemed to me, that every word of praise and glorification had been exhausted, when my attention was called to Prof. Langston's address on this same subject, published in your estimable journal. I then found that I had been mistaken, and that much that I had read on the same subject, faded into mediocrity before this able, conscientious and scholarly production; and it is, perhaps, the most eloquent vindication of our rights and privileges gained for our people, and proof of their appreciation of the same.

That such an address as Prof. Langston's should emanate from a son of our race, deservedly occupying one of the highest positions in the gift of a great and enlightened nation, is the source of great gratification to us all.

Nor was it until I had compared notes with the so-called superior race around me, upon the merits of Prof. Langston's address, that I felt encouraged to raise my humble voice in its commendation. That it is equal to the best, and far superior to the greater number of similar productions, is generally conceded, and all agree that as a monument to the life, character, and services of Chas. Sumner, it must survive through future generations.

To make my suggestion a practical one, I propose the publication of Prof. Langston's address in pamphlet form—an edition large enough to supply every household of our people with a copy.

Yours, etc.,
ROBT. W. SIMMONS.

District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 28, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:

The subject of mixed schools, at present agitating the public mind, seems to be little understood by many, and to be the object of ridicule by those who fail, in either denunciatory remarks, to conceal their ignorance of human rights.

"Mixed schools" is a ghost by which the bigot seeks to terrify the unenlightened into a degraded submission to his peculiar tenets.

If any school is public, you cannot exclude therefrom any child, and to bring up the subject of color as an objection to admission, will be found to be a two-edged sword, and will wound the person who first unsheathes it to a neighbor's heart.

The black child entertains no prejudice against the white, until it has been so taught by its instructors or parents, and *vice versa*.

We find by the demonstrations of infallible experience, that what we often term inherent attributes of mind to be nothing more than the results of early training, and especially in this case, in matters pertaining to theological, political and social opinions among men.

We are governed too much by prejudice and the errors of our progenitors; though it is our duty to follow the examples of our parents, provided they prove to be good and useful. We are not justified in placing estimates upon the character or rights of our fellow creatures, unless sustained by reason and experience. To instil into the plastic mind of a child, thoughts tending to make it hate a particular class of humanity, is to outrage honor, honesty and truth, and to do an injury to society and the State.

It is wrong to teach a child that which we cannot prove to be a fact, when called upon so to do, and to call a public school a "mixed school," you must be able to prove what a "mixed school" is, or your child will grow up to accuse you of prevarication.

Do not complain of excessive heat when surrounded by an iceberg, nor cry "stop thief," unless something has been stolen.

If it is disgraceful to be black, who is responsible? is a question our children will soon require us to answer.

Yours truly,
J. WEED COREY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 27, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:

Will the party of reform and progress keep its faith with our citizens of color by the enforcement of natural and inherent rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

Fossilized creeds, dogmas and hypocritical expedients must give place to the principles of humanity, guided by the infallible arbiters: love, conscience and reason, with true happiness, practical education, and uniform prosperity, for its final result.

The political organization that doubts and hesitates upon subjects of such vital importance to the bone and sinew of a free republic, implies a want of confidence and sincerity in the principles by it, avowed upon the rostrum, and in a platform of our own creation.

The black man and the white, whose united efforts redeemed our country from the degraded position of propagating the system of human bondage, and the rights of a treasonable secession, are no longer to be deceived by would-be-leaders, and their rhetorical efforts in platform making, for the aggrandizement of the few pure and spotless demagogues, whose love for the depressed laborer and mechanic, ceases with their versatile appeals to the superficial and momentary passional emotions of their hearers.

We have, since the war, learned to exercise our own reason, and to measure the sincerity of statesmen by their acts, rather than their rounded periods in forensic debate.

A system of politics or religion that bases itself upon color, sex, or caste, has a tendency to make bad citizens of the future generations, and endangers the stability of a republican form of government.

J. WEED COREY.

WASHINGTON, May 29, 1829.

To the Editor of the New National Era.

You publish that your columns are open to me. I use the opportunity to let your readers know my side of the story given in your paper. I contend with the odds against me, as is the case with any one who may have a controversy with an editor. The difference between you and me is not personal; it is because the columns of your paper have been used freely by J. Sella Martin to abuse me, and without stint. The opposition to me on the part of this individual is personal. I have withdrawn my association from him in the interest of decency and morality; because I have done this, he has opposed the civil rights council created to urge civil rights; he has endeavored to neutralize its effect, and he opposes the Sumner monument movement. You must know that these movements in their incipiency had his cooperation and endorsement, but encountered his opposition as soon as I was selected to be at their head, as I was by overwhelming majorities, and without any effort on my part to produce the result. I would enter into these matters in detail, but I fear that I might be occupying too much of your space. I would remark as to the monument movement that it was started without my counsel; that I was unanimously elected its president before I was aware of its existence; elected by its originators, twenty and more gentlemen of character; they designed to be simply a nucleus for a general and equal cooperation on the part of all the people of the country to erect a monument to Charles Sumner; they did not assume to dictate or control, nor to have the officers of the local organization officers of the national association when created; this, of course, should be left for future action; so you will see that all the counter representations are false and deceptive, and have been set afloat to destroy the laudable effort, simply because the originators were pleased to select me, instead of J. Sella Martin, as their head. The character of J. Sella Martin is such, and is so well known, that his opposition would not amount to much among decent colored persons, but the difficulty is, he stabs under the Douglass prestige; that though he is concealed, he uses their name. Your readers should know that during your sickness and absence from the city for several weeks this J. Sella Martin had exclusive control of the columns of your paper; that it was during this period that scurrilous and abusive articles appeared as editorials in the ERA against me, as well as in other forms, as pieces copied from other papers and reports, though they were from the pen of Martin; that the same excited your disgust, and the disgust of your father, Frederick Douglass, who disclaimed having any connection whatever with the paper. I had a right to expect that you would, on resuming charge of your editorial chair, have intimated that you had not charge of the columns while the above took place; but, by your silence, you virtually endorsed the abuse; this induced me to write a communication to "*Our National Progress*," in which I spoke of you in a relation of dependence, at which you took offence, and joined in abuse of me. I have noticed the character of the abuse in your paper, and have the proud satisfaction of observing that there is naught set down that is to my discredit; naught set down save what is in the interest of a cause I have felt it my duty to serve without compensation, and at great cost, for nearly forty years. It is good evidence of how vulnerable I am to just and effective criticism, when I am, with all ingenuity, racked in substance, subjected to falsehood, which, after all, says I am zealous and watchful as to the rights of my people, which saying is used in such a manner as exhibits the design to impair my influence in this direction, and to prejudice and affect me in my business. It is a well-known fact that The Era Association is in embarrassed circumstances. J. Sella Martin is employed to beg for it, or does; it is well known that in brazenness he cannot be excelled; in begging he is at home. I assume that it is because of this financial dependence upon Martin that the paper has not spoken as it would, fearing he might withdraw his efforts; it is well known that politicians at times employ agencies whom they utterly despise; disgusting alliances are formed that they cannot well annul; it is a fact that some time ago a number of gentlemen who were considering about an alliance with the ERA objected to having Martin's name identified with it, because of its damaging effect among decent persons, when it was said there was a dread of free action as to Martin, because he had influence among some white men, and might affect the paper. It is a mistake to suppose Martin has much influence; he is known by leading white men; the very little influence he exercises is because he manages to produce the idea on your mind that he has influence; he is played out; he is smart, but is lacking in the character that lasts and begets influence among respectable persons. I would speak of the reference at the meeting in the Nineteenth-street Baptist Church, to the receipt of money from certain parties, to refusal on the part of others, to the praise of some, and the denouncement of others, but I cannot do it, hoping that in future J. Sella Martin will not have such control over the columns of the ERA. We want an independent press, that can freely applaud or denounce.

GEO. T. DOWNING.

From Ohio.

CINCINNATI, May 23, 1874.

Editor New National Era:

The Rev. Thos. E. Knox, whose ordination took place during the recent semi-centenary celebration of African Methodism in this city, was presented a handsome cane by the colored Christian Aid Society of Allen Temple, on the 12th inst., just previous to his departure for Conference.

The denomination is indebted to this church for some very able ministers, of whom

REV. PHILIP TOLLIVER, JR.

may be specially mentioned for his peculiar success in organizing and developing congregations in new fields. It would certainly be to the interest of the A. M. E. church to adopt the method pursued by the Roman Catholics, who use their priests in the special branch of service for which they are best adapted.

An affable, genial and pleasant companion, Phil readily makes warm friends wherever he goes, besides being a good speaker and the peer of any minister in the diocese as a logician.

A defective flue occasioned a fire to the Temple, on Wednesday, which resulted in about $2,500 damage—fortunately, I am glad to say, fully covered by insurance.

Two Sundays ago it seemed that all the male colored population of this place was out in solemn parade. Each of our prominent churches had a funeral in the afternoon. The Masonic fraternity of the A. P. A.'s, the Colored Americans, each had a member to bury, and as they marched past me I thought how Death is stalking among us, this season taking off relatives, companions and friends with a lavish hand. And then I was struck by the alacrity with which our people rush to rig up in circus clothes to take part in a procession. If a member of any of our societies were to die on Sunday night, I verily believe some of the others would insist on keeping the body a whole week in order to give him what they consider a first-class funeral, and that can only be done on Sunday afternoon between two and four o'clock.

Humbuggery, superstition and tomfoollery captivates most of the race, and to deprive some of my otherwise sensible friends of their bright anticipation in the way of flummery over corpse, would be equal to giving them a foretaste of their own conception of hell. So religion and secret societies prosper among us, with little or no attempt to understand the principles upon which either is based. We get the external and totally neglect the internal or vital parts of them, being satisfied with the merest attempt to pander to our sensual passions.

MESSRS. BALL & THOMAS,

the famous photographic artists of this city, who for nearly twenty years were located on Fourth street, have followed the demands of business progress and removed to No. 146 West Fifth street. Nearly two months ago, masons, carpenters, painters, etc., were set to work, and the result is the finest and most elegant establishment of the kind in the city—perhaps in the West.

The first floor contains the reception, and ladies' dressing rooms. The first named is carpeted with fine velvet Brussels. Between the windows are immense plate-glass mirrors extending from floor to ceiling. At one end is placed a large case for frames, the doors of which are two single plates of glass, covering the whole front, which instead of opening on hinges, as is usual, is raised and lowered by means of springs, weights, etc. the whole handsomely set off with gilt vine interlacing the carved walnut of which it is made. A little to the left of this stands the counter, also finely carved, with a silver mounted plate glass show case, extending the whole length, and opposite this, at the other end of the room, is a Chickering square piano. The rest of the furniture of this room, including chairs, armchairs, sofas, tables, footstools, etc., is of a quality to match, and is the most massive, as it is the most elegant and costly I have ever seen in a gallery anywhere. The papering of this room more nearly resembles fresco work, and indeed is by many visitors mistaken for such. It is of a peculiar greenish tint, relieved by an arrangement of columns in brown, with bouquets of flowers at the centre of the column giving a fine relief to the pictures placed around the room.

The dressing room contains merely a marble-topped wash-stand, with silver-mounted faucet, dressing case, sofa, chairs, and toilet articles.

On the next floor is the operating room in charge of Mr. A. S. Thomas; the printing room is in charge of Mr. T. C. Ball; the retouching, tinting and coloring room is in charge of Mr. P. B. Thomas, and the mounting in charge of Mr. Louis DeGray. (I neglected to state that the reception room was intrusted to Mrs. A. S. Thomas). Formerly it was the custom of the firm to have all its retouching, tinting and coloring of pictures done by outside artists, but within the last year the younger Thomas has been found to be thoroughly qualified, and no more work is "sent out."

On this floor a new operator's light had to be cut and built, dark rooms arranged, printing frames placed, shelves for negatives put up, water and gas carried through the house, speaking-trumpets and dummies to the reception room, etc., all of which has been done, making it the most complete, well arranged and convenient gallery in the city. I should like to describe this floor, but have already occupied too much space.

It is hardly necessary to say anything in regard to the work executed by this firm. They must equal the best to maintain the proud standing they have so long held as first-class artists. The new location is in the vicinity and on the same street as the "Davidson Fountain," and the new post-office.

The formal opening took place on the 5th instant, when crowds flocked to see for themselves, what had been told them of the most magnificent gallery in the West.

On Thursday evening I attended the anniversary meeting of

THE MINERVA CIRCLE,

at the residence of Peter H. Clark, Esq.

After an enjoyable feast of reason and flow of soul, in the parlor, we adjourned to the dining room and passed a delightful time over the good things before us. The club treated us to but two specimens of music on this occasion—choruses—which were well rendered and enjoyed by all the five guests who had the honor and pleasure of listening to them.

Instead of getting indignant and angry at my little jokes of a year ago in these columns, the members have cultivated themselves assiduously, and I can now conscientiously say they are now the best colored choir of musicians in the city. Miss C. was determined to punish your correspondent and insisted on a speech. He declined; but it was no use. He had to get up, and if there was any remorse in them, I know they felt for imposing upon your good-natured, nervous, modest friend.

THE JUBILEE SINGERS

passed here yesterday on their way home. I received a dispatch from a much-esteemed lady friend among them, to meet them at the depot. Unfortunately, I got there just three minutes too late. I was very much disappointed and hardly know how to account for what, to her, must have the appearance of careless neglect.

I trust they may make another tour of this country, for it would be a pity not to hear once more the sweet, plaintive melodies they sing so well.

DEPUGH.

From Georgia.

CEDARTOWN, POLK CO., GA., May 21, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:

DEAR SIR: The Young Men's Literary Association of Cedartown, Ga., having met for the purpose of literary improvement, but noticing that some of our enemies are so prejudiced as to charge us with ungratefulness toward Senator Sumner, whose dust now rests in peace, whom we have learned to love and honor from early childhood, therefore, on motion of Hon. A. E. P. Albert, a committee was appointed to draft suitable resolutions, expressive of the feeling of our people in this section, in regard to the death of the great philanthropist and statesman.

The following resolutions having been submitted by the committee, were unanimously approved:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God to take from earth the spirit of the Hon. Charles Sumner, our life-long, true and constant friend; and,

WHEREAS, in his death the colored people of this country, and the poor and oppressed of every clime and nationality have lost a champion; and,

WHEREAS, in our deep sorrow and earnest expression of feeling toward the lamented Sumner, we are charged with ungratefulness toward him; therefore, be it

Resolved, That while we obediently submit to the will of an all-wise Providence, yet we cannot but mourn the loss of one who may indeed be surnamed the Saviour of Human Liberty.

Resolved, That in the death of Senator Sumner, Massachusetts has lost her brightest gem, the United States her ablest statesman, the arts and sciences a persistent scholar, and the poor sufferers of all nations a bold, fearless champion.

Resolved, That the death of Charles Sumner was a direct blow upon human rights, and that his dying sentiment—"Take care of my Civil-Rights Bill"—be ever kept fresh in memory as a monument of his devotion to the rights of humanity.

Resolved, That the statement of Senator Schurz is fallacious—that "the colored people are ungrateful to Senator Sumner," who stands as one of the few immortal names that were not born to die.

Resolved, That we cooperate with any sound movement for the immediate building of a monument to his immortal memory, and that we will teach the coming generation to rise and call him blessed, for he indeed has been the most forward leader in our deliverance.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded for publication in the NEW NATIONAL ERA, and as Georgia has not expressed her sentiments as much as her sister States, that Mr. J. H. Magee be requested to let these expressions form a part of his "Sumner Memorial Volume."

A. E. P. ALBERT,
Chairman of Committee.

A. S. THURMAN,
Secretary of Committee.

From Texas.

RINGGOLD BARRACKS, TEXAS, May 12, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:

In your issue of the 23d ultimo, appears a "note" from some one of the colored young men in the army, and purporting to have come from this garrison.

Now, while that young man intrudes on your columns, why not do so for some good purpose? Why does he invite some of his comrades to write communications interesting to him, when he does not do the same for us? His "note" is very good so far as it goes, but in my opinion, it is like our cash—it does not go far enough in the right direction. I am in favor of reading communications from colored soldiers when they are on the right subject. Why not let them come out in the colored press and argue for their rights as other soldiers?

Very few of your readers, no doubt, are aware that the colored regiments in the army are officered by white men—the only offices held by colored men are regimental, non-commissioned—they do not even give them non-commissioned appointments on the general staff, such as ordinance and commissary sergeants and hospital stewards, but this inequality is about to be checked should the bill recently introduced in Congress by Gen. Butler, to abolish distinctions on account of color, become a law, and it is reasonable to suppose it will.

Another great injustice being done the colored soldier is keeping him on the extreme frontier constantly; for example, I will give you the stations of colored regiments as in 1867 and at the present:

Ninth Cavalry, 1867, Texas; 1874, Texas. Tenth Cavalry, 1867, Kansas and Indian Territory; 1874, Texas and Indian Territory. In 1869, the Thirty-eighth and Forty-first which were serving in New Mexico and Texas, respectfully, were consolidated and formed the Twenty-fourth Infantry which remains at present in Texas, and in the same year the Thirty-ninth and Fortieth Infantry, serving in Louisiana and North Carolina, respectively, were consolidated and formed the Twenty-fifth Infantry, which remained in that sickly State (Louisiana) until June, 1870, when it came to Texas, since which time they have been serving in Texas and Indian Territory. I might here state that the part of Texas in which troops are kept is not very desirable, as can be inferred from a remark once made by Gen. Sheridan that if he "owned hell and Texas, he would rent the latter and live in the former."

General Sherman in his evidence before the House military committee, gave, among other things, the stations of troops by regiments, and said that there was one regiment in Texas that he desired to move, in case Congress appropriated sufficient money. That regiment must have undoubtedly been the Twenty-fourth Infantry, as it has been out here twice as long as any other infantry regiment in the State. He remarks, after speaking of that regiment, "the Twenty-fourth regiment is a colored regiment. We have two colored regiments of Infantry, the same as we have of Cavalry. This one has been in Texas ever since the close of the civil war, on the theory that that race can better stand that extreme southern climate than our white troops." He further said, while speaking of a colored regiment, "and that regiment has certainly fulfilled the best expectations entertained by the friends of the negro people; they are good troops, they make first rate sentinels, are faithful to their trust, and are as brave as the occasion calls for. I wish to bear this my testimony—my willing testimony—to their excellence." Now, since he admits that we have been out here since the close of the late civil war, why not Congress appropriate sufficient funds to move us, at Gen. Sherman's desire? Of course we do not expect then to move the cavalry to Detroit, or to any of the Southern cities, as they are needed on the frontier *all the time*, but there is one thing we can expect and that is, the transfer of one of the colored infantry regiments (the one the longest on the frontier) to the posts occupied by either the First, Second, Sixteenth, or Eighteenth Infantry, in the States; this would give a change that would be acceptable to the members of both regiments.

Since the regiment of which I am a member, and with which I have served since 1867, has been on the frontier, we have been called upon to perform duties of the most arduous nature, such as going away into unsettled territory on scouts, for four or five months, with cavalry, working on military roads from one post to another, guarding out-posts, stations, water-holes, and all places likely to be frequented by Indians, besides this, those who remained at the station, proper, of the command, were performing garrison duty of a very tiresome nature, consisting of going on guard and fatigue duty every other day, attending daily two drills and a dress-parade, as well as the stated roll calls, etc., and all this while the members of the four regiments heretofore mentioned as being in the Sates, are enjoying themselves at will, going on guard once a week, and seldom if ever, on fatigue. It is a great mistake that Congress has never passed a law making it obligatory to exchange regiments once in two years.

Last summer our then colonel (Doubleday) went north on leave of absence, his first steps were directed to the National Capital, and while there he urged the transfer of his regiment north, but failed in his efforts, so plain could he see the injustice done us, that he at once quit the regiment by retirement, having been borne on the army register for more than thirty years. Thanks to him for his efforts, though he failed.

We do not like to ask too much of our colored citizens, and we willingly submit to our fate, and look forward for a better time after the passage of the Civil-Rights Bill, and the bill to abolish distinctions on account of color, in the army of "Uncle Sam."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
"WAR STRIPE."

From Michigan.

ADRIAN, MICH., April 14, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:

In pursuance to a call previously circulated, a number of the colored citizens of Adrian and vicinity, met at the Second Methodist Church to express themselves by appropriate remarks and resolutions on the death of the Hon. Charles Sumner. Mr. Jas. W. Johnson was called to the chair, and Robert Wilson chosen secretary. The meeting was then opened by singing and prayer. The object of the meeting being fully stated by the chair, on motion a committee of three, consisting of Darius Roberts, Wilberforce Johnson and Robert Wilson were appointed to draft resolutions. The committee soon handed in the following resolutions which, after some very appropriate remarks by Darius Roberts, Mr. Fields, Chas. Harris, Robert Wilson and Wilberforce Johnson, were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The sorrowful intelligence has reached us that the Hon. Charles Sumner has departed this life; and

WHEREAS, We feel that it was greatly owing to his untiring efforts, united to his honesty of purpose and to his undaunted courage, that to-day we are rejoicing in our freedom and our citizenship; and

WHEREAS, We know that in his death the Nation has lost one of its most valued sons, and humanity her tried and always true friend; and

WHEREAS, His dying words—"take care of Civil Rights"—prove most conclusively this heart was ever true to the purpose of bringing to us as a people the full measure of equality before the law:

Therefore, be it Resolved, 1st. That we deeply mourn the death of the Hon. Charles Sumner (America's greatest Statesman, and humanity's truest friend;) and as a race, especially have we occasion to grieve for the loss of one of our best, most true and firm friends.

2d. That we ever keep his memory sacred and fresh in our hearts, and to our posterity leave the name of the Hon. Charles Sumner as a synonym of all that is best and most true in humanity.

3d. That a copy of these proceedings be furnished the *Times*, *Expositor* and *Daily Press* of this city, and the NEW NATIONAL ERA, of Washington, D. C., for publication.

JAS. W. JOHNSON, *Chairman*,
ROBERT WILSON, *Secretary*.
ROBERT WILSON,
DANIEL ROBERTS,
WILBERFORCE JOHNSON,
Committee on Resolutions.

[Communicated.]

Moral Reflections No. 53.

"Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister and mother."—Mark xxx, iv, 35.

The Saviour's labors at this time seem to have been peculiarly onerous and pressing. By healing on the Sabbath day, he had excited to a high pitch of animosity the minds of the Scribes, and especially the Pharisees, who, with the Herodians, took counsel how they might destroy Him. And unclean spirits, when they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried, saying "Thou art the Son of God." It was on this occasion, under this heavy pressure of duty, "He goeth up into a mountain and calleth unto Him, whom He would, and He ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that He might send them forth to preach."

"And the Scribes, which came down from Jerusalem, said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils, casteth He out devils." Under this malignant opposition on the part of the Pharisees and Sadducees; and weighed down by His incessant labors in healing the diseased and instructing the ignorant, faint, and weary, His human nature needing rest and refreshment, and sympathy of friends, there came to Him His brethren and His mother, and, standing without, sent unto Him, calling Him. When informed who they were, He said, "Who is my mother or my brethren?" And He looked around about on them, which sat about Him, and said, "Behold, my mother and my brethren. for whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister and mother."

It is not to be presumed for a moment that the Saviour meant any disrespect by this answer to his brethren, much less to His mother, but to impress deeply on the minds of His hearers and His disciples the superiority of spiritual things to those merely temporal, and the infinitely more exalted nature of heavenly relations.

From this subject we learn, first, there is a spiritual relation stronger and purer than anything earthly—that which binds us to God as a reconciled Father, and to our Christian brethren.

It is not in our fallen nature, but effected or wrought in us by the spirit of God. We have it not naturally; it is true, we have the moral feelings, though in an imperfect state; and yet imperfect and perverted as they are, they are the source of our purest joys on earth. We pity the miserable, we compassionate the suffering; we have, too, the joys of friendship; and, stronger than all, the love of kindred; but none of these come within the realm, properly speaking—the realm of the spirit. These human relations partake, more or less, of earth and selfishness.

In this loss there is the abnegation of self; the soul goes out and fastens itself on God, as its chief good—clings to an unseen Saviour, and carries something of this Divine Spirit into all the natural and social relations of life.

A. A.

WASHINGTON CITY, February 29, 1874.

[*To be continued.*]

Hon. S. J. Ireland has been appointed one of Trustees of Alcorn University.

The independent wrappings worn with all kinds of dresses, dark or light, are little mantelets, double-breasted jackets, small capes, and small Dolmans.