

DELAWARE ABOLITIONIST.

EDITED BY A COMMITTEE.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1848.

TO THE PATRONS OF THE ABOLITIONIST.

The present number completes the first volume of this paper and closes our editorial agency. Whether the committee may decide to issue another number or two, we cannot tell; in that they will be governed partly, in the way the funds turn out, and partly in the matter of finding some one to edit it. As for ourselves we volunteered merely as a makeshift, without experience or qualification, until a better could be obtained; and as we promised nothing, we make no apology, for the deficiencies, for the last six months, of the paper.—We endeavored to make it readable, and hope not without some success, and that it has been productive of good. We take leave of our readers with the sincerest feelings of friendship, and hope, with them, to see the good work go on until Slavery is abolished in the State and Nation. C.

We have devoted a large share of this paper to the able letter of Theodore Parker, in which he gives a historical and statistical view of slavery; we earnestly recommend the perusal of it to every class of our readers, whether anti-slavery or pro-slavery, believing that they should not fail to be both interested and enlightened, on a vitally important subject.

Also a letter from Thomas Jefferson, giving his opinion on Emancipation; though old, it is a standard article and highly appropriate to the present time of agitation. The rapid development of facts, having a direct bearing on the slavery question, as shown by the various measures before Congress, and some of the State Legislatures, are signs of the times, hopeful and cheering to the friends of freedom. We cannot begin, in our small monthly sheet, to keep up with the thread of their discussion; but thanks to the labor of Abolitionists, the reader will now find them recorded in every respectable journal. We copy from the Pennsylvania Freeman, the following extract—which is full of meaning,—from the message of the Governor of New York. "If there be any one subject upon which the people of the State of New York, approach near to unanimity of sentiment it is in their fixed determination to resist the extension of slavery over territory now free. With them it involves a great moral principle, and overrules all questions of a temporary or of a political expediency.—None venture to dissent; and in the mere difference of degree in which the sentiment receives utterance, it has proven powerful even to the breaking down of the strong barrier of party organization." On the first day of the session, a strong series of resolutions was introduced to the house, against the extension of slavery, and in favor of the abolition of it in the District. It is thought they will pass with great unanimity. We regret not being able to speak so hopefully of our own State, but do not despair. We have yet to see whether our Legislators will brave the scorn of the world and in defiance of the wishes of their own fellow citizens, still suffer this relic of barbarism to disgrace our State. The Pennsylvania Freeman in speaking of the "Daily Republic," says:—"Without agreeing with, or endorsing all the views of its Editor—who unlike most Editors has opinions of his own—or his peculiarities of taste, we can say with a free heart, that he makes by far the freest, the raciest, the most independent and the most readable, daily paper in our city."

We heartily concur in the above happily expressed sentiment of said paper, and its gifted Editor; and proceed to extract from its columns the following excellent and appropriate article, abridging it merely of one short paragraph. C.

THE STATE OF THE CASE.

Slaveholders and their sympathisers, are constantly telling us that the anti-slavery movement in the North has acted, in fact, adversely to its design. They point in proof to the rapid extension of slave territory and the increased severity of the slave laws of the Southern States, since the abolition agitation commenced. These are simple and obvious facts, and their occurrence may be ascribed in part to the indirect operation of the antagonist sentiment whose growing force and threatening aspect has put slavery upon its defence, more promptly and decidedly than it otherwise would have been. Tyler's administration founded the necessity for the immediate annexation of Texas, upon the movement made in England to purchase out the slave property of that little republic, and banish domestic slavery from its territory. And our war with Mexico was doubtless, designed to give a broader and safer margin to the slave region than the rightful limits of Texas would afford it. It is likely enough, that the apprehension that freedom

must at an early day press its way southward and reclaim the middle and eastern States, which slave labor can no longer cultivate with profit, prompted the slave interest to open a timely retreat into a new theatre.

It is all that is true of the anti-slavery influence in stimulating the opposite interest, it resolves itself merely into a question of time: for it is notorious that the six original slave States has grown to thirteen, and six hundred thousand slaves had increased to two millions while the North was yet passively non-resistant. And the same causes would as certainly, though perhaps more slowly have gone on till the very same results which are now claimed upon the provocation of the North, would have happened. The argument therefore is nothing but the wrong justifying its precipitancy and violence by the aggression of the right which it resists. In this way the law abode; and the existence of legitimate authority occasions the turbulence of armed rebellion. So far, we stand acquitted of all culpability in such an accident of our agency.

But it is also charged that the spirit and manner of the assault upon the position of the South has been inconsiderate and indiscreet.—In this also there may be some truth; but at the same time, it may afford the South no justification; for it was almost unavoidable in the circumstances of an enterprise so difficult in itself, and resisted as this has been.

It is also charged with injustice to the vast pecuniary interests invested, on the guaranty of the public law, in the persons and labor of slaves. It is not pretended that the slave has in any way, either by his own or his ancestor's acts, contracted a debt or duty to his master, which forfeits his liberty and labor; but the claimant says he has a virtual contract with us for the profits of his third party's labor; and it becomes not us to demand the rescission of the contract as void in law, or contrary to morals. This objection might be made pertinent and respectable, if not valid in fact, if it came as one of the conditions of a proposition to do justice to the injured party, offered in good faith, and to be adjusted equitably. If we have in any way induced them to accept a bad title, and if they proposed to begin by surrendering what they ought not to hold against the injured party, there would be sense, justice and good conscience in demanding from such a surrender of actual damage as we have occasioned, and we ought to make it good to the last shilling.

We say they have no right to the slaves; they answer that we helped them to steal them, and had our share of the first profits.—We say that we have repented, and if they will do the same, we will settle the whole account fairly. But settle or not settle, the slave is entitled to his freedom. And if we do owe you anything for helping to steal him, and liable upon our warranty of title, still, both parties are more deeply in debt to the stolen man, for all the wrongs inflicted upon him, and that account should not be made to await the adjustment of ours.

The pretence that emancipation upon the soil is impracticable is sufficiently answered by the fact that the system of slavery is intolerable—out of the harmony of things, and fitted only to destroy and be itself destroyed. A priori, if God made the slave a man, society cannot reverse His purpose. The omnipotent cause is in constant effort to achieve the design, and the whole economy of things tends constantly to its ultimate. The same truth is demonstrated in the world's experience.—Providence has written on every feature of the system "I will overturn, overturn," and abolitionism is an inevitable fact. It may be postponed, but cannot be prevented. It is unavailing to object the faults of the emancipation movement against its essence.—The strength and wisdom of maturity will correct the faults and errors of infancy, and opposition will only discipline the agents and means into perfect adaptation.

In the meantime, however, abolitionists should look earnestly and respectfully into the argument of the enemy and learn whatever it is capable of teaching, for it is not enough to do right in principle and aim; we must also do full justice to the antagonist interest, (forgo wrong doer is wholly wrong and few reformers are wholly right) and adopt the means and circumstances of the evil. The divine administration is always in wise relation to its subjects, and human intervention must adjust itself to the particular character of the work. Daily Republic.

AIR NAVIGATION.—The Boston Post says that "Captain John Taggart, of Charleston, is building a machine to navigate in the air. We have seen a picture of the balloon, and a miniature of the sails and the way he creates a new element with them. President Everett and Mr. Treadwell of Hartford College and Mr. Pook, the naval constructor, we understand, have expressed favorable opinions of the project. Capt. T. has invested \$1,500, and wants to purchase much more by subscription, in order to complete the new carriage for the upper deep by the 4th of July." If it really be true, that the gentlemen named have expressed the opinion that any element, new or old, (a new element is a novelty, at least,) can be brought to drive so bulky a machine as a balloon, in the air, it only goes to show how easy it is for smart men to make very great blunders. A fifty-horse power engine could scarcely drive a body of such surface against a ten mile breeze, let alone a smart wind.—The Captain will find that his money will fly faster than his balloon, by a good many knots. —Lowell Courier.

THE PEACE MOVEMENT—ELIHU BURRITT.

From the Morning Star. The cause of Peace, which for several years has been doing something in the United States and England, by means of Peace Societies and peace publications, seems now to be making progress on a larger scale than heretofore. It is known to our readers that Elihu Burritt, the learned Blacksmith of Massachusetts, has been in England and on the continent for some time engaged in promoting the cause of peace, and league of universal brotherhood. We have been deeply interested in reading his accounts of matters and things in the old world, and particularly with his reports of a grand peace demonstration held recently in the capital of Belgium, which is a division of the Kingdom of Netherlands. It appears that after long and difficult labors in the cause, in the British empire, Mr. Burritt succeeded in getting a large number of the English men of influence as a deputation to meet in some Kingdom on the continent for a peace demonstration. Burritt, with a committee from London, went to Paris; but such was the state of the country, that it was thought some other place would be preferable for such a Convention as was contemplated, and the city of Brussels, the capital of Belgium, was fixed upon for the place of holding the first great peace demonstration on the European continent. Burritt, with two or three friends from England, who had met him at Brussels for the purpose, succeeded beyond their highest expectations in interesting men of talent and great influence in the Belgian capital, in the cause of a peace demonstration, and splendid preparations were speedily made for a convention of two days, when the friends of peace from several nations could confer together. It was an interesting incident that this great peace convention was to meet within a few miles of that bloody war demonstration on the fields of Waterloo, where the power of Napoleon was broken by the combined European powers, and where tens of thousands of noble men, on both sides were left dead on the bloody field of battle. How unlike this demonstration of Peace to that of War!

Well, the convention was held; and a most splendid affair it was, and came off with great eclat! The American minister had assisted them much by interesting the Belgian government in favor of their demonstration. The grand hall that Mr. B. ever met a convention in, was furnished to be a magnificent concourse assembled; one hundred and fifty had come over from England and Scotland; they had come in from France, and were there from other countries. Speeches were made by men of great names from different countries; and peace resolutions passed, and among them, one urging upon the governments of Europe and America the importance of avoiding wars by an appeal to a Congress of Nations hereafter to be established. In a word, the Brussels Congress, is represented as a glorious day to the cause of Peace on both sides of the Atlantic. Measures were taken for permanent efforts on this grand plan; M. Visschers of the Belgian government was chosen President, and Vice Presidents were appointed, one for Belgium, one for France, one for England, and Burritt for the U. S. States.

Since the Brussels Congress, they have held a week of demonstrations in England, in various large towns. The Bureau of the Brussels Congress is soon to issue an Address to all the Governments of Europe and America, for abolishing all war. The President and Vice Presidents have called upon Lord John Russell, the Premier of England. He received them courteously, and spoke encouragingly of their peace efforts.

We opine that great good will ultimately grow out of these efforts, to the cause of Christianity and international Peace. Success to the right. P. S. B.

FREE SOILISM IN LOUISIANA.

A late number of the New Orleans Courier contains a curious debate in the Senate of Louisiana, on a bill appropriating one thousand dollars for the benefit of indigent free colored orphans.

Senator Haralson considered the bill an entering wedge to abolitionism or free soilism.—"I do not believe," he added, "that such were the intentions of its author, but that is the inevitable tendency, and hence my motion to lay it indefinitely on the table."

Mr. Reynolds, in defence of the bill, said,—"I can see nothing in the tendency of the bill to justify the apprehension of the Senator."

Senator Gates said,—"I think it our duty to do everything for the moral advancement of our race, as well as for the moral advancement of the free colored people among us."

In opposition to the bill, "I cannot see," said Mr. Lwazyce, "why there should be so much anxiety to pass this bill, except from local considerations. Perhaps the gentlemen are anxious to establish these people near them. The true policy of the State is to get rid of them—to drive them away. In the State of North Carolina, enlightened experience has suggested the necessity of putting up every free negro who refused to quit the State, and selling him to the highest bidder. We may be under the necessity one of these days to follow the example of that State."

Senator Kenner said, "if we are to be bound down by what these Senators conceive the strict principles of justice, and are to accord to the black race all the prerogatives of equality before our laws, why is this doctrine going to lead us? Had a Northern man employed such doctrines as these, his abolitionism would have been deemed so plain, that those who run may read."

In the New York Convention, Mr. Smith, could "not see any rule by which slaves were to be included in the ratio of representation, the very operation of it was to give certain privileges to men who were so wicked as to keep slaves;" to which Mr. Hamilton replied, that "without this indulgence no union could possibly have been formed. But . . . considering those peculiar advantages which we derived from them, [the Southern States], it is entirely just that they should be gratified.—The Southern States possess certain staples, tobacco, rice, indigo, &c., which must be capital objects in treaties of commerce with foreign nations; and the advantage . . . will be felt in all the States.

In the Pennsylvania Convention, Mr. Wilson considered that the constitution laid the foundation for abolishing Slavery out of this country," though the period was more distant than he could wish. Yet "the New States . . . will be under the control of Congress in this particular, and slavery will never be introduced amongst them," yet the lapse of a few years, and congress will have power to exterminate slavery from within our borders."

In the Virginia convention Gov. Randolph regarded the slave trade as "infamous" and "detestable." Slavery was one of our "vulnerable points." Are we not vexed by the population of those whom we hold in slavery?" he asked. Col. Mason thought the slave trade "diabolical in itself and disgraceful to mankind." He would not admit the Southern States [Georgia and the Carolinas] into the Union unless they agreed to the discontinuance of this disgraceful trade." Mr. Tyler thought "nothing could justify it." Patrick Henry, who contended for Slavery, confessed "Slavery is detested,—we feel its fatal effects,—we deplore it with all the pity of humanity." "It would rejoice my very soul that every one of my fellow-beings was emancipated."—Said Mr. Johnson, "Slavery has been the foundation of that impiety and dissipation which have been so much disseminated among our countrymen. If it were totally abolished it would do much good."

In the North Carolina Convention it was found necessary to apologize for the pro-slavery character of the Constitution. Mr. Iredeil in defence said, the matter of Slavery "was regulated with much difficulty and by a spirit of concession which it would not be prudent to disturb for a good many years." "It is probable that all the members repudiated this inhuman traffic in slaves," but those of South Carolina and Georgia would not consent to an immediate prohibition of it." "Were it practicable to put an end to the importation of slaves immediately, it would give him the greatest pleasure." "When the entire abolition of Slavery takes place it will be an event which must be pleasing to every generous mind and every friend of human rights."—Mr. McDowell looked upon the slave trade "as a very objectionable part of the system." Mr. Gandy did not wish "to be represented with negroes."

In the South Carolina Convention Gen. Pinckney admitted that the Carolinas and Georgia were so weak that they "could not form a union strong enough for the purpose of effectually protecting each other;" it was their policy therefore "to form a close union with the Eastern States who are strong." The Eastern States had been the greatest sufferers in the Revolution, they had "lost everything, but their country and their freedom." "We, the Carolinas and Georgia, should let them, in some measure, partake of our prosperity."—But the union could come only from a compromise; "we have secured an unlimited importation of negroes for twenty years." "We have obtained a right to recover our slaves in whatever part of America they shall take refuge, which is a right we had not before."—"We have made the best terms for the security of this species of property it was in our power to make; we would have made better if we could, but on the whole I do not think them bad." No one in South Carolina, it seems, thought Slavery an Evil.

Thus the Constitution was assented to as "the result of accommodation," though containing clauses confessedly "founded on unjust principles." The North had been false to its avowed convictions, and in return "higher tonnage duties were imposed on foreign than on American bottoms," and goods imported in American vessels "paid ten per cent. less duty than the same goods brought in those owned by foreigners." The "Navigation laws" and the "Tobacco" wrought after their kind; South Carolina and Georgia had their way.—The North, said Gouverneur Morris, in the national Convention for the "sacrifice of every principle of right, of every impulse of humanity," had this compensation, "to bind themselves to march their militia for the defence of the Southern States, for their defence against those very slaves of whom they complain. They must supply vessels and seamen in case of foreign attack. The legislature will have indefinite power to tax them by excises and duties on imports."

Still, with many there lingered a vague belief that Slavery would soon perish. In the first Congress Mr. Jackson, of Georgia, admitted that "it was an evil habit." Mr. Gerry and Mr. Madison both thought that Congress had "the right to regulate this business," and "if they see proper, to make a proposal to purchase all the slaves." But the most obvious time for ending the institution had passed by; the feeling of hostility to it grew weaker and weaker and the nation became united, powerful and rich; its "mortal wound" was fast getting healed.