

To our Readers and Patrons.

In order to give us an opportunity to square up our books, and collect a few of the many outstanding accounts now due us, we have given our paper into the hands of J. W. FERRY, secretary, under whose control it will be until further notice is given.

P. GRAY MEEK. Close of Volume Ten.

With this number of the WATCHMAN, expires the tenth year of its existence as a newspaper. From the day of its first establishment here, under the superintendence of Messrs. Hays and Forney, until the present time, it has been published without intermission, and without deviation from the principles of the Democratic faith upon which it was founded. For ten long years it has been the organ of the Democracy of Centre county, always boldly upholding the fundamental doctrines of that great organization, and never stooping to "crook" the pliant hinges of the knee, that thrift might follow fawning.

When the old Centre Democrat betrayed the trust reposed in it by the honest masses of this county, and went over, body and breeches, to the Whig Republican-Know-Nothing party, or whatever that organization was called ten years ago, the Democracy was left without an organ, while its opponents then had two—the Democratic Whip, and the traitorous Centre Democrat.—This state of affairs was not to be tolerated, and the DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN was established by Mr. Shugert. Its first editors were Henry Hays and Wm. Forney. The former has long since been laid in his grave, and the latter, like Esau of old, sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. As, in the Southern States, a yankee from New England makes the hardest and most cruel of taskmasters for the slave, so Wm. Forney was one of the bitterest and most malignant opponents of the party and principles which he once professed to love and serve. For money he sold his manhood and his principles, and now as editor of a third class daily at Harrisburg, he makes his living by slandering and reviling all that he once held dear and sacred.

After the exit of Messrs. Hays and Forney, if we recollect rightly, the paper came under the control of Mr. John T. Hoover, who, for a period of time, very respectably conducted its columns. It then passed into the hands of Messrs. S. S. Seely and B. F. Hall. Mr. Hall did not long remain in the concern, and was succeeded by Mr. J. S. Barnhart.—Seely and Barnhart then conducted the paper for a number of years, when Mr. Seely retired, and Mr. Barnhart became sole editor. After awhile Mr. Barnhart disposed of the establishment to Col. W. H. Blair, apparently, but Mr. Blair went to the army about that time, and the matter was never consummated.—Mr. Barnhart continued in the paper until an arrangement was effected by which Mr. C. T. Alexander and P. Gray Meek became the editors. The latter gentleman being, as was thought at that time, too radical in his views to suit the times, soon retired, and was shortly after succeeded by the writer of this article as the partner of Mr. Alexander.—Under the firm of Alexander & Furey, the WATCHMAN was then continued for some months, when Mr. Alexander retired and Mr. Meek again became connected with its fortunes. The paper was then published for five or six months by Furey & Meek, when the former retired, and Mr. Meek became sole editor. Since that time the history of the WATCHMAN is well known. Under the conduct of Mr. Meek the paper has grown and prospered, notwithstanding the persecution and arrests to which he has been subjected during the war, and the abuse and hatred with which he has been treated and regarded by the infamous party that then ruled and still rules our unhappy country. Although sorely pressed and persecuted, he has outlived the slanders of his enemies, and to-day the success of the WATCHMAN attests that he but advocated the cause of the people. It is now so firmly established as to be inviolable by any attacks of its enemies. It is firmly founded upon the rock of the Democratic faith and the gates of the abolition hell cannot prevail against it.

The next number of the WATCHMAN will be the first of volume eleven. We hope the friends of the paper will make renewed efforts to place it in the hands of every Democrat in the county. Although our circulation is large, we have room for more, and as it is contemplated to have increased facilities for preparing off the edition soon, there need be no fear of too great a quantity of subscribers.

and intends to devote its best energies. The pro tem editor of this paper takes this opportunity to state that with this number of the WATCHMAN he expects his pro tem-ship to close. By the next issue of the paper, which will be on the 5th of January, Mr. Meek will again be in the editorial chair, and will resume the duties which he has laid aside for the last six weeks. The Pro Tem cannot say that he regrets this, and he don't believe his readers will. The connection between him and the paper, though brief, has not been unpleasant, but he is entirely willing to relinquish his position into the able hands that have so creditably fulfilled its requirements for the last four years.

A MEMBER of Congress from Illinois, by the name of Ingersoll, offered a resolution in that body, which was passed, instructing the committee on the Lincoln testimonial, etc., to "take into consideration the expediency of providing for the completion of the Washington Monument, with a view to the dedication of said monument to the commemoration of the virtues and patriotism of those great and good men, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln."

Here is a new phase of Abolition impudence! Here is a grand attempt to lift the Abolition party into respectability by associating the local celebrity of Abraham Lincoln with the world wide and universal fame of the great Father of his Country, by attempting to incorporate the detestable principles of the most detestable and infamous party that ever had an existence with the pure doctrines and spotless political creed of him who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Without a rival and without a peer, George Washington stands alone in the affections of the people of the United States, and it were almost sacrilege to mention another's name in the same breath. The monument which now stands unfinished at the National Capital is the spontaneous heart-offering of the whole American people to his fame, and was intended to commemorate only his virtues, his patriotism and his greatness.

George Washington was a national man—a lover of the whole country. He deprecated sectional animosity, and warned his countrymen to be cautious how they infringed upon each other's rights. He exhorted them to live in amity and concord, and to compromise their difficulties by mutual concessions for the good of the whole. His spirit was eminently catholic, and he embraced in his fatherly heart the whole country, North, South, East and West. Sections were all alike to him. He recognized no geographical distinctions. He drew no lines of separation between the free North and the slave South, or the manufacturing East and the grain producing West. In his eye they were all one and the same country—one and the same people.

For this the people loved him, as no other man was ever loved before—as no other man has ever been loved since. And in the light of his wisdom they lived happily and peacefully for three-score years.

The people would build the great Washington Monument. They placed it in the Capital City of the Nation, and vowed it should stand forever as a testimony to the greatness and goodness of him whom they revered as a father.—The nations of the earth heard of the great tribute. They sent their offerings to its shrine, proud to have them cemented into the noble pile that was to commemorate the great man's virtue. The States of the Union bent their throats of love and regard, and the noble, postlest of the Nation's gratitude reared its lofty head toward the skies.

Abraham Lincoln was a sectional partisan. His views were narrow and bigoted. He could not comprehend the vastness of the issues with which he had to deal. He thought more of his party than he did of his country. His love was all for the North, his party for the South. To keep his party in power he did not hesitate to plunge the country into a fratricidal war, and thus murdered hundreds of thousands of its best and bravest citizens. Under his rule no citizen was safe from arrest; the laws of the land were violated, and the Constitution trampled under foot; might became the right, and despotism usurped the place of liberty. Before he was removed by Providence the land had become a desolation, and the earth was full of human blood. After his death, Peace once again asserted her sway, and the people ceased from war.

—On our outside to-day we publish the great sermon of Rev. John Chambers, of Philadelphia, delivered on Thanksgiving day, on the subject of the "Victim of Involuntary Servitude." It is a document which should be in the hands of every man, woman, and child in the land, and deserves the most earnest and careful consideration. Mr. Chambers is one of the ablest divines in this country, and the words which he has here uttered are full of the most solemn meaning for us and our posterity.

The Staunton (Va.) Spectator, in noticing this great sermon, puts Mr. Chambers down as one of the shining lights of the Republican party. We beg to correct this impression of our Southern contemporary. Rev. John Chambers is one of the few clergymen who have refused to bow the knee to the Baal of Abolitionism. We are proud to own him here in Pennsylvania as a Democrat in whom there is no guile, and we only wish we had a hundred thousand more like him. Withal he is a consistent and upright minister of the Gospel, and in his Sabbath ministrations preaches nothing but "Jesus Christ and him crucified." Will our Staunton contemporary make the correction?

In securing Liberty has the African secured Everything. In an article, a little while ago, we stated that English capitalists and Yankee speculators were forming a coalition to secure Southern lands for the cultivation of cotton on a large scale, with free and cheap negro labor. We assumed that under the real estate system of labor to be adopted, the negro would find his condition little better, if better at all, than when in slavery; for, instead of having one master whose interest it was to preserve the laborer's health, strength and longevity, he would be exposed to the mercenary hands of a score of masters who have no interest in the free negro except in securing from him the largest possible amount of work for the least possible expenditure of money. These thoughts, the Chambersburg Repository declares, are the suggestions of "stagnant and moribund" "war" far from the free negro, and the "war" far from the African and his race." It continues, "has given the African freedom, and in giving him that has given him everything." Singular to say, however, although in securing freedom the negro has secured everything, the editor of the Repository is not so sympathetic for him or regard for his comfort, he is not contented.

Here is the glorious privilege of being independent. If he don't like his employer, if he can't or don't want to work as hard or as long as is required of him; or if his wages don't please him or are not sufficient to supply his ordinary wants—why he can quit and slave or seek another employer. He can go through this routine just as often as he likes it, so long as the law holds out to him "everything." Oh, the glorious privilege of being independent!

Did the editor of the Repository observe some revelations lately made to the Commission on the subject of the "war" far from the free negro, and the "war" far from the African and his race? There were some things disclosed which may incline many persons to believe that physical freedom does not furnish a man everything he requires, however he may toil, and that the "glorious privilege of every white man of choosing for whom he would work, and for how long, and on what wages, is not so valuable as the involuntary servitude of negro slavery. A man may be physically free, and yet be so bound by surrounding circumstances as to be essentially a slave.

When Sambo was a slave at the South, he went about in his own way, and as he was thrashed sometimes to amend his faults; but he was well fed, not racked to pieces with too much work, and when sick he was doctored and cared for because, if for no other reason, he was worth a thousand dollars to his owner. But, alas, he was not a "glorious privilege of every white man of choosing for whom he would work,"—he couldn't leave and get another master. This was bad, indeed; this was the "sum of all villainies."

Zekel, however, is a cotton spinner in Massachusetts, and he has a right to go from the shore of Plymouth Rock to his own family, growing in numbers and wants. Laborers are plenty, competition strong and wages low. He has to work from twelve to fourteen hours out of every twenty-four, in a hot, stifling atmosphere, dangerous to health. Still his humble wants are not met, although he economizes in clothing and food, and eventually several of his little "side branches" are forced to leave their spots and after the mill to work for eleven hours a day, and for eight years, but he only then has to smother the babies and wails of his family. This is his birthright of freedom; this his pursuit of happiness in his own way.

But, says Mr. Repository, "he has the glorious privilege of every white man of choosing for whom he will work, and for how long, and on what wages." He is not compelled to stay by his employers, but circumstances, over which he has no control, master him and keep him down to his unrequited toil. Presently, before he has lived out of half his days, he will die; but that is no loss to his employer—he has cost them nothing. Another will at once take his place to also lay his bones prematurely by the wayside. The children grow up, or rather spide up—sallow and sickly—stunted and spiritless—the victims—the slaves—of capital and grasping avarice. The hands of their lives soon run out—others take their places from the human current, and the huge slave mill grinds on.

Again, has the editor of the Repository ever been among the iron kings and the gnomes of the Pennsylvania mineral regions? Perhaps he has feasted many times at the "banquets of the fortune"; but has he gone with the latter down into the bowels of the earth, where the sunlight never enters—and the dangers of "fire-damp," of "choke-damp," of bursting mines and caving rocks? Has he gone to their humble abodes and seen their iron faces, consisting of black molasses and hard bread, which is rarely garnished with a slice of beef or bacon three times a week? True, not all the gnomes fare thus—only the unskilled laborers, the "hewers of wood and drawers of water." True, too, they enjoy the white man's glorious privilege of choosing another employer, but with what better result?

Yes, it is a "glorious privilege" to be independent—to be free to go and come as we will—but freedom does not give us "everything." In many instances, while the "victim of involuntary servitude" enjoys every physical comfort and is contented and happy, the free man, regardless of his glorious privilege, in the vicinity and slave of unyielding circumstances or of the remorseless cupidity of employers. We are not a defender of chattel slavery, any more than of the slavery of innocent and unremunerative toil. We desire to see all races and colors free to go and come as they please, or to submit to the grinding exactions of capitalists, whether slave owners or slave employers, and a lot of ungrateful toil which can neither secure him a decent subsistence nor a title of his happiness to a slave of which all men are supposed to be entitled. Therefore, at the risk of being again charged with "mawk sympathy," in deploring the fate of the Southern blacks, under the free labor system to be adopted by the foreign and Yankee speculators, we are constrained to say, again—Alas, Poor Negro.—Patriot & Union.

Palmerston Wanted War with America. Now that Lord Palmerston is dead the secret is let out that he was anxious, at the time of the Trent affair, to go to war with the United States, believing that a good time to settle up old scores of dissatisfaction. He thought that Uncle Sam had his hands full of the foreign and Yankee speculators, and he conceived that a propitious time for sending a fleet to the mouth of the Chesapeake.—Blackwood's Magazine for November, gives the following particulars of position of Palmerston and his cabinet associates:—"In the Trent affair, Palmerston is now no longer a secret that Lord Palmerston made up his mind to go to war with the United States, the Emperor of the French, equally long sighted, agreed with Lord Palmerston and had there not been with him the Emperor of the French, he would have thought of war under any circumstances, though the message sent to Washington would have required a fleet and categorical answer, because a fleet equipped for action would have escorted it to the mouth of the Chesapeake. 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