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## PASSMORE WILLIAMSON

Still lies in prison, with no prospect of restoration to liberty until a public indignation shall be aroused which will cause, the knees of the oppressor and his fellow-conspirators to smite together. Public justice, though sure, is low; and, in the hope of quickening it, we call attention once more to the leading facts in the case:

Mr. Williamson told a colored woman in Philadelphia-what ever so many slaveholding judges had decided through the last fifty years-that she and her children were legally free from her former master, having been voluntarily brought by him into a Free State. Hereupon the late slaves went where they chose to go, and Mr. William on went about his business. which took him that same night to Harrisburg; and on his return, the second day afterward, he was arrested and taken before Judge Kane on a writ of habeas corpus, granted on the affidavit of the late slaveholder Wheeler, who complained that Jane Johnson and her children had been forcibly taken away from him and were still detained by said Williamson.

Mr. Williamson made a perfectly tospectful, direct, and pertinent answer to this charge-namely, that he had not taken away said persons, never had them in his possession or custody, and did not know where they were. This return, Judge Kine pronounced false and evasive, therefore a contempt of Court; and thereupon sent Williamson to prison, where he still lies, with no limit to his period of incarceration and no prospect of its ter-. mination.

Kane's inference that Williamson's return is untrue. But in opposition to this inference, we have William on's express uffilavit (and nobody questions his general integrity and veracity,) the circumstantial statement of his father, fully corroborating his own, with the testimony of Jane Johnson in open court on the trial of the negroes by Judge Kelly for assult on Wheeler, and her express affidivit in her lite application on Mr. Williamson's behalf. Unless all these perfectly consistent statements of unimpeached witbesses are false, then Williamson's imprisonment is a flagitious wrong, and the assection of both Kane and Black that "he holds the key of his cell in his own pocket, and may come out whenever he sees fit," aggravates the caul wrong to which he has already been subjected.

The writ of habeas corpus is a writ of deliverance-a process for recovering liberty. It is assumed by Wneeler's application and Kane's action that Jane Johnson is unlawfully held in dutess by Williamson, so that she cannot teturn to Wheeler. Now Jane Johnson's testimony at Philadelphia and her application by affidavit to Kane are conclusive, at least on this point. She is not detained by Williamson. She is in nowise in his power; she is in Boston, trying to earn an honest living, while he is immured in Philadelphia jail on the order of Judge Kane." There can be no dispute as to these facts.

" But she has no status in Court," says Judge Kane. Why not? Wheeler applies to have her liberated from Williamson, so that she may return to him. Why, then, has she no status?

But suppose she has not-this is not a question of status but of fact. If

she never was in Williamson's custody non under his control, as she testifies, then his return was true, Judge Kane's sentence was unfounded, and it is not within Williamson's power to liberate himself except by perjury. Would a just judge cavil as to the status of a witness who proved that he had made a great mistake and thereupon remanded an innocent man to prison 1 ...

"But let Jane Johnson come into court," says Kane. For what? Her first testimony was given in open court, subject to cross-examination by. able lawyers. Her application but repeats it. Why should she be required to travel once more from Boston to Philadelphia to verify evidence which she has already given in Philadelphia?

But consider that Judge Kane has udicially pronounced her still a slave, liable to seizure anywaere by Wheeler, and then say what a judge deserves who requires her to put her head into the tiger's mouth in order to be permitted to give testimouy in behalf of an innocent min whom he is oppressing. Is not this outrageous?

## THE PROSPECTS OF IRELAND.

Mr. Thomas D Arcy McGee de livered an interesting lecture tast eveuing before a large audience of his countrymen, at the Tabernacle, on the present condition and prospects of tretand. Mr. McGee visited his nauve country last summer, after eight year's absence, and the conclusion watch he draws from his observations, is that a radical change is rapidly taking place in the manners, habits and ateliectual character of the people of breiand; in short, that the country is undergoing a revolution as complete as if it had been proclaimed from the cannon's mouth. The Emerald Isle is in a transition state, and a new volume of its history is now opened. Mr. McGee attributes the change to three principal causes.

First, the system of railroad communication, which is bringing both ends of the island together, scattering local prejudices and making of the hish one compact people. The railroad has banished the faries from Ireland, it has waked up the intellectual tacunies of the agricultural classes, and introduced among them habits of sence of national centralization has heretofore been the cause, according to Mr. McGoe, of the absence of national unity. The most remote parts of the island, Leinster and Connaught, Manster and Uister, are now made acquainted with each other through the influence of the railroads.

The second revolutionary agent at work in Ireland, is the English language. Language is always a powerful instrument in forming the habits and character of the people. Half a century ago, the Gaene was the language of the greater part of the island. This was the language of Ossian (whom Mr. McGee styles the Homer of the western world,) and of the Irish saints and priests of the Catholic church. But this old national language is now disappearing. In 1834 the national school system was established. In 1854 more than a million of pupils, under age, were learning English, and already cheap English publications are in great domand throughout the country.

To the patriotic Irishman it will doubtless be a source of deep regret thus to part with his mother tongue. But he cannot overlook the fact that two great nations, the English and the Americans-the one on the East and the other on the West-both speak the same tongue, and that, too, a different one from his own; and if he would keep pace with the world, he must not keep himself shut up in the shell of a dead language between two living ones. The way in which this introduction of the English language will influence the Irish mind in the iuture is to Mr. McGee a mystery. He admits the excellence of the

English literature, but he is undoubt-

ា នៃការ 😉 នយាធិ នៅវ សក់កញ្ចុង ប្រឹ

edly fearful that the security of the Catholic faith will be endangered by its inroads. English ideas generate from the principle of the right of private judgment, Irish ideas from the principle of obedience. The question with Mr. McGee is, whether the Irish intellect will be able to combat successtully the expediency of Bacon and the materialism of Hobbes, "Shall we be," says he, "Irish translated, or Irish apostates! Shall we accept what is good and wholesome in the English literature, and at the same time be able to reject the bad?" Mr. McGee entertains the hope that there will soon be an Irish literature, better adapted to the Irish mind and faith than the English, and capable of counteracting the deleterious effects of the

The third element of change in Ireland is the new social relation between agricultural classes-the proprietors and the cultivators of the land. The old farm-labor system has gone with the year 1846. The farm-laborers that have been left by the famine and the emigration to America can almost dictate their own prices. They are paid in money wages, and they make their purchases at market prices. Indian meal has supplanted the potato, and this is also an improvement. The gentleman's gentleman is not now the formidable power that he was, The famine was a great forecloser of mortgages. It squeezed up the spongy excrescences of title.

The Encumbered Estates bill of Sir Robert Peel did a great deal to redeem the character of the English from the disgrace incurred by their neglect of the Irish in 1846. No less than 'our million of acres, or one-fourth of the cultivated surface of this island, has been sold by the Encumbered Estates Court, and more than one-half of the purchasers are native Irishmen.

The people of Ireland have very little interest at present in domestic politics. The new proprietors are busy in managing their estates, and the laboring classes are favorably impressed with the novelty of their situation.

A mixed feeling and a kind of wondering interest prevails in regard to the war. Ireland looks at the contest in much the same spirit as the woman who stood by and saw her liege tord mer was uppermost she cheered him, but when the bear was on top, she cheered Bruin iu t as heartily.

The Rev John Newton was called one day to visit a family that had suffered the loss of all they possessed by fire. He tound the pious mistress and saluted her with-

"I give you joy, madam !" Su prised and ready to be offended, she exclaimed, "Do you mean to in-

"Oh no," he answered, "but joy that you have so much property that fire cannot touch." This happy allusion checked her

grief—and wiping her tears, she smiled like the sun shining after an April shower.

"For where the treasure is, there will the heart be also."

Let young people remember that their good temper will gain them more esteem and happiness, than the genius and talents of all the wicked men that ever existed,

## THE QUESTION STATED—LETTER FROM ABUAH MANN, JE.

New Yoak. Oct. 9, 1855.

Sin: I possess your letter of the 3d instant, informing me officially of my unanimous nomination as a candidate for election to the office of Attorney General of this State, in a Republican Convention composed by the union of the late Whig Convention with the Republican Convention assembled at Syracuse on the 27th ult., and requesting me to signify my acceptance of and my approbation of the sentiments expressed in the resolutions adopted in its proceedings. .. In aonia of my Democratic friends to led on by Mr. Polk, united against I have lamented, with unceasing bit of principle, by our dostitution. off for Lindspool becall has not come of the

tate briefly the reasons which have led me to my conclusions. / and a de-

It seems appropriate to the occasion for me to comply with that request, since I differ with many for whose opinions and patriotism I have the most profound respect. They unite with me in condemning the National Administration for its action on the pass the bill. The administration Nebraska-Kansas question-for some of its appointments and removals connected with those Territories-for its repeated attempts to interfere with and control the nominations at conventions-for allowing and requiring exigency Mr. Buchanan was induced its officers to coerce the political to make a personal appeal to his demopinions of all its dependents and ocratic friends representing his State, employees; and they admit their sym- to give up the Proviso of freedom. pathy with their friends whose feelings have been outraged by the Fugitive Slave law and the decisions under it, as well as by the claims and advances of slavery, in other respects, to in hostility to the Proviso, and finally such a degree that they have come to the conclusion to leave all other political questions to their fate until these things can be righted. Ladmit myself among this class, and I am encouraged in my course by knowing that I have their sympathy. After all these conclusions, however, they cannot withhold their support to the administration, although convicted of atrocious violations of the free principles of our institutions, and the personal rights of our citizens, because they apprehend that it is not the most effectual mode of redress, and fear it will terminate. n the elevation and success of Mr. Seward who, it is but just to say, has discharged his duty in respect to the extension of slavery, with consistency to his principles; and with the ability and dignity implied and required by his station. In respect to the mode of redress, although I confidently diffor with them, I have long hesitated, in the hope that the political organization to which I have devoted my life, and whose leading and general principles I shall not give up, would rise like a strong man from the morass ing themselves upon the blessings exinto which it hopelessly fell in Mr. pected to be derived from the diffu- has never since kept time to the music Polk's administration. That hope has sion and extension of slavery. They of the dead march in the tragedy of been Jeferred until it has produced were thus ship-wrecked, and ever Authory Burns. Let it be recollected its natural consequence of making the since bave been sailing under the that President Pierce's administration heart sick. I will not blame them for practical flag of slavery. Many of is essentially only a restoration of Mr. adhering to it longer; but for one, I our best and most talented young men | Polk's. They each undertook to carmust, in justice to myself and those sunk down with a political paralysis | rv water on both shoulders, and were who concur with me, surrender it. under the load imposed upon them by well drenched on both sides, the natu-There is no longer reasonably any ground to hope for redress from that the principles and practice of human quarter. We have, I think, reached slavery. a point where we should make a stand and defend ourselves, our principles, and our rights, by any honorable means within our power, while we mingle our sympathies with those of our outraged friends. I fear that many have forgotten, or have never known the history of the transactions in which these outrages commenced. and by which the Radical Democracy were sold over to slavery. It is time that they should recollect and be informed truly. It was no secret, a d was communicated to me by Mr. Buchanan while he was a member of Mr. Polk's Cabinet. I regard it, therefore, as authentic. The country was involved in a war with Mexico, to secure Texas and extend the area of slavery. Mr. Clay and Mr. Van Buren had concurred alike that this was both dishonorable and unnecessary. It was becoming burdensome and ruinously expensive. The administration desired to get out of it by any means whatever. Mr. Polk, was a timid man, and more deficient in moral courage than almost any public man

To effect the treaty with Mexico, it became necessary to have three millions of dollars for the "secret service." The bill was proposed to Congress, and the Jefferson ordinance of 1787, called now the Wilmot Proviso, was proposed as a condition and amendment, providing that slavery should might be acquired by the expenditure or by the expected treaty. This raised the question between freedom and slavery-between free territory and

gave way under the debilitating influwere receeding in popular favor and reduced to extremities. The cabinet were nlarmed. The heroes of Mexico dency. The throne trembled. In this and pledged himself to share the fate and hardships they expected to experience from their constituents. This was the origin of his celebrated letter, worked out the misfortunes of General ter, from which he has never recoverthe bill passed The freedom of the Territories was thus sold to slavery for three millions, which in this age, its constituent parts. Herein lies the reason why both divisions of the democracy always send forward their jubilant "congratulation's to the South on all occasions of its triumphs in placed in a false position, in which they have ever since been congratulatthe administration to carry forward

It was their duty to make it national the doctrine of squatter sovereignty. This will account for the unfortunate souri Compromise, as well as the weakness of the position of the late himself, with this mill-stone about his neck, to be made at once the incious machinations, the consequences they are now suffering. of which are now before u. Among them are the rebellious divisions of history of the introduction of the docthe democratic party, having no com- trine of slavery extension as one of mon principles of union or of action the principles of the democratic party. no common ground on which they can and referred to the reessures and coustand, fearing to avow honest truth and decided opinions, wanting selfrespect, as well as the respect of mankind, cherishing heretical doctrines hold and vote for the measures, which and corrupt practices, obedient to the depend upon and proceed from the dictates of patrorage, and tamely kissing the rod that scourges them.

political results of this submission of Mr. Polk's administration to the slave power, we see the sacrifice of the lamented Silas Wright and his friends, the administration for not giving to who refused such submission, and them the exclusive benefits of its patwere immediately denounced as rebels ronage as their reward. The whigh against patriotium and the national de- party, as heretofore constituted, ard mocracy. This sacrifice was too great also divided in like manner and in for such an object, and my indignation similar proportions by the same means. not be extended to any territory that still causes the blood in my veins to course swiftly, when I recollect the inquiry is, What is to be done? Shall treachery by which it was accomplshed, and that, too, towards the man of all others to whom Mr. Polk was most tion next year, where we shall or doing so, I have been requested by slave territory. The administration, indebted for his political existence, again exhibit our weakness and we The State of the month of the same and the same of the

freedom. Ambitious and powerful torness, my active participation in nerauxiliaries in the Senate, from the suading him to take the step which North, were appealed to successfully, saved Mr. Polk's election, and made in the emergency. The House of himself a victim. It was a fatal mis-Representatives stood up firmly at take, and the consequences are now first, but a few of its members soon before us in the extension and diffusion of slavery into free Territoriesence of patronage; still not enough to the repeal of the Missouri Compremise-the existence and perpetual grace to our national character of the tugitive slave law—the surreuder of the independence and the venality of were already candidates for the Presi- the federal courts-the destruction of the right of personal liberty-the corruption of legislation by the subsidies of patronage—the executive interference to prevent the freedom of elections and nominations to office tending to corrupt and undermine the elec tive franchise which lies at the basis of our institutions, and upon the free exercise of which the perpetuity of the constitution and the Union altogether depend. If the farce of an Cass, in his subsequent Nicholson let- election of the Emperor of the Franch is recollected, my meaning will be ed. The appeal was successful and more tully appreciated. We have often been led to wonder why these fatal and aggressive wrongs of Mr. Polk's administration were not resisis only equivalent to the thirty pieces | ted and arrested in : Mr. Fillmore's for treachery in an early and more time. The answer is obvious. The important transaction. From thence towering intellect and more towering orders went forth to insert a new ambition of Mr. Webster controlled article in the creed of the American it. He was the master-spirit of Mr. democracy declaring slavery one of Fill more's organization as much as Mr. Marcy was of Mr. Polk's. His had surveyed the ground upon which Mr. Polk stood in relation to the ordinance of '87, and saw the array of the slave power which stood also upslavery." The three millions and the on it. He saw the timid submission democracy of the free States were, by af the democracy of the North to Mr. the same act, assigned over to the dic- Polk's policy and patronage. He detator of Mexico, to procure corruptly, rived hope from it. His ambition was a peace which it was supposed would stimulated by the signs of the times, secure the power of the administration and he persuaded himself that he could in opposition to the heroes of the war, derive power and advantage from the and the democratic party were thus same field of operation. I need not refer to the denouement of his plans. It is too recent to have been forgotten. His State abandoned him; and ral consequence. Having contributed my aid to bring them into power I have had satisfaction in approving of some of their measures, but I cannot and democratic, to illustrate it in its follow them to carry slavery into the progress into the national territories by temple of freedom, for with my consent slavery can never be extended i. this or any other country. I am willefforts of Mr. Douglass, aided by the ling to leave it alone where it is-this administration, in repealing the Mis- I regard as my constitutional obligation and duty, trusting that those whose misfortune it is to be connec-Governor of this State, who suffered ted with it, will in their own time discover and apply in their own way a humane and practical remedy for as strument and the victim of these atto- evil which, without any fault of theirs,

I have thus briefly pointed to the sequences resulting from it. While one division stoutly repudiates such & principle, they always in practice upprinciple, as on the passage of the Nebraska bill. The other division are If we turn our attention to the first more bold and hardy. They maintain openly and with manly frankness at least, both the principle, the practice and the measures, while they denounce In this state of things among us, the we continue our hopes of redress and our divisions to the Cincinnati Conven