

neglected the demonstrable fact that the first and (until attended to) the only available thing with them was their complicity in it. The only sin of these is a continued perception.—But there is another class of real criminals. It is they who see Slavery to be wrong; and how they participate in it, and might free themselves from it, but "suffer themselves" to be overcome by its allurements. I have been ashamed to hear, in Boston, the descendants of the Puritans apologizing for Slavery. They thought a Southern man would like that! The Southerners; thank God, are not so bad; they say, *Slavery is right; if not there is no apology for it.* John Randolph spoke their sentiment, when, pointing his finger at one such man in Congress, he said, "I envy not the heart nor the head of a man who can come here from the North and defend Slavery." Southern politicians are willing to make use of such, whilst they laugh in their sleeves; but the nobler men and women of the South strive to see men falling thus mealy. Here at Washington it has been as they fly in wheat—one noble head after another laid low; falling into infidelity, as the Slavery Power has cast some web of interest around them. And those who believe, with Christianity, that it profits not a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul, turn pale and say, "Who fills next?" No matter if the concession is for "Peace." So did the army on the Alps desire nothing so much as peace, to lie down anywhere and sleep; and those who slept never woke more! Nothing is deadlier, at times, than peace; and invariably when, as in this case, the word Peace is but a cover of your desire that your personal interest and business should be undisturbed—a disguise of that only Satan, selfishness.

Ah, ye American men! too soon have you inscribed on your banner, *Peaceable*. More successful had it been, if the word had been in the order in which the ancient Christian places it—*first pure, then peaceable*. Never was there but one path given men to walk in: it is that of a pure conscience. Whether the light be dim or bright, it is in the right direction; guilt is in veering from that. There may be innumerable crooked lines between two points, but one straight. What is the right line between us and that peace we all crave? We can all imagine two men of an fire candor and courtesy—the one Southern, and believing Slavery right in itself; the other Northern, and believing it wrong—coming to an understanding on the subject; the common postulate being only that neither must himself do what he believes essentially wrong.

*Southern*.—I believe the institution is best for the white and colored races.

*Northern*.—I make no doubt of your sincerity, but would like to discuss it.

*Sou*.—We may do that presently.—But will you not allow that, so long as I hold that opinion, you have no right of any kind illegally to interfere with what I hold legally as property?

*Nor*.—I do see that. The wrong is not in my detestation of Slavery, nor my endeavor to inspire you with a like feeling, but in my attempting a right thing in a wrong way.

*Sou*.—Which is always an unsuccessful way.

*Nor*.—Now let us define the other side. I believe that Slavery is the "wild and wicked fantasy" that "Hougham called it, or the "sum of all villainies" which Wesley pronounced it. You are connected with it sincerely, and, therefore, unless you have refused possible light, innocently; but if I am connected with it, I sin.

*Sou*.—Certainly.

*Nor*.—If you and I have partnership in a slave, your innocence does not exculpate me.

*Sou*.—Certainly not.

*Nor*.—If you seek to make me a party to anything which I hold wrong you are guilty, even though you believe it right, unless you can first persuade me also that it is right.

*Sou*.—It is so.

*Nor*.—And if our firm cannot remain without involving me in this wrong, my one path is out of it. The firm must be dissolved.

*Sou*.—Assuredly.

Now, my friends, let us approach our national agitations thus simply and quietly. The People of the United States are a firm. Wherever the firm deals with Slavery, all deal with Slavery; and the General Government has dealt, and does now deal with that local institution. I appeal to you, Southern men, is it not the only right thing for those who believe Slavery to be sinful, whether it be really so or not, firmly to declare themselves free from all share in it, if not by your concession, then, by whatever means they can, but *certainly to do it?*

But, it is said, your fathers conceded this and that, and will you not stand by their compact?

If there be any compact, and it pledges me to what I feel wrong, shall I be judged by my father's light?

"But if, in obedience to your conscience, you should injure this Union, you would cause great evils—evils greater than Slavery."

Evils are not as bad as sins. We do not wish to rid ourselves of our share in National Slaveholding, as from an evil disease, but as a moral deflection, as falsehood or theft would be. Evil is a part of God's Law, for he says by every prophet, "I create evil." He is responsible for whatever evils ensue; we only for doing His will. Is not my soul his voice? And when I reject that voice, which assures me it is wrong to do this, is it not a sad lack of faith in Him? As one who should say, "Thou, Infinite Being! didst bid me thus, but didst not foresee, as I do, that this and that evil would follow!"

"Will you imperil the interest of thirty millions of whites, for three or four of Africans?"

The adages, reply the others, are very good. *Honesty*, even in the old Roman sense, embracing all that is just and true to God and man, is the best policy. *Right never wronged any man*. The interests of the three or four millions of negroes are not so near to us as the interests of the whites who hold them. Those we would but redeem from physical Slavery; but these we would redeem from what by our creed is far worse, the *crime of enslaving them*. If I rob you, you know I am the far worse off of the two.

"Then if you think thus, we must separate. We think you in error, that you cannot think our institution right; or that even to say it is inequitable, or an evil, does not define your view: that you must count it immoral. Certainly, nothing, however valuable, should induce us to do wrong; and the South admires, as much as any people, the brave words of Phocion, 'Let justice be done, though the heavens fall!'"

But, it is replied, it does not end here. You say we must secede. But this proceeds from the assumption that the Union is inextricably involved in the policy which makes all hold slaves. We do not believe that; we think the Union is essentially involved in Freedom, and that all its Pro-Slavery proclivities are usurpations. We believe indeed, that it does not interfere with you in your Slaveholding, nor the English in their Aristocracy, nor the Arabs in their Mahomedanism; but at the same time we believe our Constitution protects us from compulsory sanction of these, and protects us in our freedom. Thus, we cannot enlist against it, but only to redeem it from the distractions, resulting from a misinterpretation of our compact. If there is secession, it cannot be on our side.

On this assertion, now made by a large portion of this nation in terrible earnest, hangs all the excitement, and will hang more and more. Criminality and violence serve no purpose here. Both are equally sincere. Individuals may be insincere, but no large mass of men can hold together with means and influence for any length of time on an affected or fanatical basis. Hypocrisy would forbid the enthusiasm manifested on both sides; and the outlay necessary for a cause cools all fanaticism.

How, then, shall these be reconciled with each other, preserving self-truthfulness?

We must set aside here those who cry "Peace," when there is none. I, for one, have lost forever my faith in those self-styled conservatives, who would rely upon "putting down agitation." That cry has been sounded for a score of years, and with what success any one may see by going no farther than the House of Representatives. Stop agitation! So Xerxes forbade the sea to advance; so the Phoenicians shot arrows into the clouds when a storm arose; so an English gentleman wrote an elaborate treatise, showing conclusively that the Atlantic could never be crossed by steam, which went out to America in the first steamer. Stop agitation! Judging by late events in Kansas, one would say it would take much more agitation than the country has yet known, to put down agitation.

No; this scab of Acquiescence, which you would bring over the sore, is not a cure, even if you could get it; the fester would only deepen more treacherously. Agitation is not the disease, but the friendly symptom which admonishes of disease. Eruption on a fever are the health of a disease; a wise physician will never wish them to cease, but by the eradication of the undying cause.

How, then, is Peace, which all love, and which is for the interest of all, to come?

Let St. James answer: *By the wisdom which cometh from above, which is first pure, then peaceable*. Let every man in the Union only feel assured that he stands beneath the sheltering wing of his country, a pure man. Let men cease to see the National Flag discolored by what they believe dishonorable and wrong, and then be told they have nothing to do with it when each stands with his share in the eye of God and man! Then shall that unrest, which is the sign of the strong lash of Conscience, cease. Then shall the word Slavery, that dirge of our woes, never more disorganize Congress, for it will be beyond Congress. I pity the Northern man who finds repose whilst his hand is binding slaves; still more the Southern man who would desire to have him find peace in impurity.

I know how large a number of good men in the North this position will offend. But I am ready to reiterate that, when their personal responsibility for the bondage of a man anywhere is past, Slavery only addresses them as other evils. A man cannot, of course, cease his testimony against whatever is to him wrong, except by being so far forth implicated in it. It may, however, be emphatically announced to this class, that if all they had ever thought, said, or written, on this topic—abstractly good, it would be to the act which would have freed them, or any one of them; from complicity in the thing, a child's play to the great Lisbon Earthquake. If any of them think that the preservation of the Union involves such complicity, let him not turn phrase-monger, but himself secede, and not in prison, ere he pays taxes or accepts advantages in his State through which he is inevitably involved. No eloquence would persuade like this. A great action is by its divine nature irresistible; great words are good only when difficulties make them great actions. In some way or other, nations are at the mercy of strong men, and ten thousand flee before one. Truly, says the Brahmin:

Devoutly speak, and men  
Devoutly listen to thee;  
Devoutly act, and then  
The strength of God sets through thee.

How Godlike is it to be brave and true! There never was a soul conceived in God's mind, or projected into the North or South, or East or West, who in itself honored dapperness or cowardice, and respected not an honest, unflinching stand on any side. I am a Southern man, and I fear not contradiction from any one born there when I say that they all respect a man from the North who will not bend from his principles; and that not one of them thinks a doughface worthy to be valued as more than a cat-paw. A heroic action, which is such only because imperiling large interests, is a new star lit in the Heavens. Men see it, and feel the presence of the unseen higher Power; they know with joy that the earth is more than a moving ant-hill. This joy cannot be moved by any danger or loss. If the Union were sundered by such stand, does it not pay in that it propp the whole Earth? For were the Union divided on a principle of right, a voice like the angel-hymn of a Second Advent would go forth, proclaiming the law by which thrones tremble, and all oppressions and evils fall as leaves in October: *First pure, then peaceable*.

Before all, then, let us dismiss Fear. Let us, with Montaigne, fear nothing so much as fear. Southern men! Northern men! be one in being brave for your light and your right! If it should be found ever necessary to separate—as I pray I may never believe more than I do now—still would mutual honor survive; and by no event can any obstruction befall the vast destiny for which these superb American hills and plains were planned. By their great strength, these national throes proclaim the grandeur of a Nation's new birth. Hark! there is now as of old a voice on the angry waters, "It is I: be not afraid." Severe and unharmed above our small cares and storms is enthroned the Genius in whose mind once, as in an egg, lay the Western Hemisphere, and to our tearful prayer replies, *Oh man, think you that I have created these in vain? Know that until God is dethroned, the Right must prevail: Until he dies, nothing good can die!*

The telegraph announces the election to the Senate of the United States of Jefferson Davis, at present Secretary of War.

"Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith."



**THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.**  
JOHN S. MANN, EDITOR.  
CCUDERSPORT, PA.  
THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 23, 1856.

**THE ACADEMY.**  
The second term of the Academy under the care of Mr. Hendrick, opened on Monday, with seventy-five scholars. Team after team came loaded with housekeeping apparatus; and the call for rooms, and the numbers crowding into small apartments, remind one of the potatoes crying to each other in the hills to "lay over." They are brave students, willing to put up with difficulties and inconveniences for the sake of the benefits they receive, and we hope our people will feel sufficient confidence in the success and prosperity of the Academy, to induce them to build a large boarding house before another winter.

The friends of Rev. W. H. Shaw are invited to make a donation visit at his residence, on Wednesday evening, March 12th.

**RAILROAD DISASTER.**  
As the mail train going west on the N. Y. & E. R. R., on Thursday last, a little after three o'clock, P. M., neared Belvidere depot, the passenger car containing about 60 passengers, was thrown from the track by the speed of the train passing a curve. The car turned over down an embankment of about ten feet, and was thrown onto the forward end, precipitating all the passengers into a heap. The Hon. S. Ross of this village, was in the car, and among those most seriously injured. He received a very bad cut on his head, laying bare a portion of his skull four inches in length and two in width. Doctor Charles of Angelica, fortunately was present at the depot when the accident occurred, and gave prompt relief to all the sufferers. He dressed Mr. Ross' wounds so effectually that he was able to ride home on Saturday, and he is now (Monday morning) looking as cheerful as ever, and promises to get well as fast as a man with a broken head could expect.

From what we learn of this accident, we think there is little doubt that it was caused by the recklessness of those having charge of the train. The car was thrown from the track by no break of any description, but from excessive speed while rounding a curve. Fortunately no lives were lost, though nearly every passenger was injured. The car was broken all to pieces, and it is a great mercy that none were killed. Must these terrible slaughters continue! Will not those in authority act at once to prevent them?

**THE TRUE MEN OF THE SOUTH.**  
We have been charged, time and again, and in every style of epithet, with being unable to see even the good qualities of Southern men. We deny the charge. We have admired Col. Benton, F. P. Blair, C. M. Clay, and many other slaveholders. We have now to add another name to the list of brave and true men in the South, who challenge our admiration. We publish on the first page a sermon by a Virginian, the Rev. M. D. CONWAY, which is among the best we have ever read, and we ask all our patrons to give this sermon a candid and attentive perusal. We like it all the better for its plain and direct manner of pointing out the sins of the North—our sins. We take many parts of this discourse home to our own condemnation; but we find much in it to strengthen and encourage us. Then its elevated tone and sublime faith in the eternity of Right and Good, is applicable to all classes, ages, and sexes.

The reader will see that this Virginian has answered the puerile cry against agitation, so effectually that no doughface can read it without feeling his cheeks burn with shame. These are glorious words:

"Those who deny that the full sunlight should play above, and beneath,

and around any subject, can never convince any disinterested person that they are in the right."

But our chief delight in this sermon, is derived from its calm and Christian method of securing peace. A large number of timid men in every community, are crying "Peace, peace!" when there is no peace, and can be none, for the reason given by Mr. Conway in these prophetic words:

"Nothing is deadlier, at times, than peace; and invariably when, as in this case, the word Peace is but a cover of your desire that your personal interest and business should be undisturbed—a disguise of that only Satan, selfishness.

"Ah, ye American men! too soon have you inscribed on your banner *Peaceable*. More successful had it been, if the word had been in the order in which the ancient Christian places it—*first pure, then peaceable*. Never was there but one path given men to walk in: it is that of a pure conscience. Whether the light be dim or bright, it is in the right direction; guilt is in veering from that. There may be innumerable crooked lines between two points, but one straight. What is the right line between us and that peace we all crave!"

Those persons who think there can be peace on the Slavery question before the Slave Power is overthrown, and the Government restored to its original purity, may learn from the above that all such hopes are entertained without reason, and can only lead to disappointment.

**HON. J. J. PEARCE AND THE PREVAILING SENTIMENT IN THIS DISTRICT.**  
The *Muncy Luminary* has produced an abundance of proof that at the time of his nomination, the extension of slavery was a prominent question in the District. It was so prominent that Mr. Pearce first felt constrained to say in his address to the electors:

"Cherishing an abiding respect for the compromise of the past, I cannot approve the late abrogation of the Missouri Compromise, a compact, dictated by patriotism and sanctioned by wisdom and experience. As a friend of man I could never countenance or encourage the extension of Slavery, or its introduction into territory consecrated to freedom."

Will any body pretend that Mr. Pearce could have voted for H. M. Fuller after his Southern bid became known, without forfeiting his word as declared in the above?

As a further proof of the prominence of this question at that time, the Whig convention of Lycoming county which assembled on the 12th of Sept., 1854, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the repeal of the Missouri Compromise Act—an act sanctioned and acquiesced in by the whole country, for more than a quarter of a century—was effected by demagogues in reckless disregard of the wishes of the people of the Free States—is a wanton violation of plighted faith, and a measure fatal to the interests of Freedom everywhere; and that the present National Administration, being justly held responsible for said repeal, is only worthy the disapprobation, contempt, and repudiation of all good and true men of whatever creed or party."

This, in connection with the fact that Mr. Gamble, the then member, opposed the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, is conclusive evidence, we think, of the fact that the anti-Nebraska question was a prominent one in the election of Mr. Pearce. Mr. P. was elected to rebuke the authors of the Kansas fraud; and nobly has he fulfilled his mission. Those papers that charge him with having mistaken the "prevailing sentiment," can give no proof of their assertion; for all the facts are against them. The members of Assembly from his District, have unanimously endorsed his course, and a majority of the voters at the last election declared at the ballot-box that the "prevailing sentiment" in this Congressional District, is against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and against the further extension of Slavery.

The Fusion candidate for Canal Commissioner in this State last fall, was quite as strong an anti-slavery man as N. P. Banks, and he was nominated on that account. His vote in this Congressional District, is therefore a fair test of the prevailing sentiment. It was as follows:

|          | Nicholson. | Plumer. |
|----------|------------|---------|
| Center   | 2033       | 1851    |
| Clinton  | 996        | 934     |
| Lycoming | 2834       | 2566    |
| Mifflin  | 1342       | 1310    |
| Potter   | 634        | 436     |
| Sullivan | 292        | 347     |
|          | 7371       | 7144    |

Majority for Nicholson 227. So Mr.

Pearce has not only reflected the wishes of the party that elected him, but he has represented a majority of the voters in the District. We hope, therefore, to hear no more of his mistaking the sentiment of his District. Let those papers that persist in opposing him, do it on true grounds. If we are to have a 12th section Know Nothing party in this District, the sooner it is known the better. If not, then there is no shadow of excuse for opposing the course of Mr. Pearce.

It has been suggested that a distinguished citizen of Mifflin county will be the next candidate for Congress. As at present advised, we shall be happy to support him; but we would inquire of the Lewistown papers if they expect a candidate who will vote to please the slaveholders. If so, we think he had better save the expense of the campaign. We shall support no man who will not be as true to Freedom as Mr. Pearce has been; and we believe a majority in the District will be equally firm in their opposition to Slavery Extension.

**PLEASANT WORDS.**  
There are a few disappointed men in our village, comparatively new comers, who, manifest their chagrin at their ill success in efforts to rule the county, by asserting that it has a bad reputation abroad. This slander has no foundation except in the poisoned minds of those who utter it. Our reputation has greatly improved within the last ten years, and is constantly improving. Our people have only to keep in the even tenor of their way, pursuing their temperate and industrious habits and their enterprising spirit, to secure a reputation that will satisfy the highest aspirations. The evidence of this may be seen on every hand. Take the following paragraph from the last Harrisburg Telegraph, as a sample of the many similar ones that might be published:

"The contested election case in the House of Representatives between Mr. McGue, sitting member, and Mr. Beck, contestant, brought a large delegation of the citizens of Potter county here as witnesses, as the alleged irregularities are located in that county. We had the pleasure of meeting the entire delegation—among them, the Sheriff of the county. A more straightforward, intelligent, self-relying set of men have rarely visited the Capitol, and they boast that there has not been a licensed hotel in the county for three years, and that they would starve the Sheriff out entirely did not stragglers from other sections come in once in a while to violate the laws. They claim that they take more newspapers in proportion to their population—have the best neck of woods and the best population in Northern Pennsylvania, and their living illustrations go far to sustain the latter assumption."

The men who made this impression on the writer of the above, are simply fair specimens of the mass of our citizens. A friend in Harrisburg writing to us on business, adds to his letter the following, on the same subject:

"I am highly gratified at the impression the Potter county friends made here. I have heard gentlemen speaking about them several times, in the highest terms, for intelligence and deportment."

That will do for the present, and until some proof is furnished to sustain the impudent falsehoods so industriously published, that our reputation abroad is bad.

The election of Gen. Cullom as Clerk of the House is regarded everywhere as a significant event. Gen. C. voted against the Kansas Nebraska bill at the last session, and running again was defeated, on the score principally of his opposition to the Nebraska measure. Although a Tennesseean and a Representative of a slaveholding constituency, no member opposed more effectively the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the usurpation of the Nebraska Bill, than he. At that crisis he boldly maintained, what all privately admitted, that the honor of the South was pledged to the maintenance of that compact. His firm stand emboldened other Southern men, previously wavering, to take the same position. He failed of a re-election last August, but by less than a hundred votes. His vindication by the House is alike honorable to itself and to him.

The charge of "sectionalism," the favorite cry against the Republican party, needs no better refutation than is given by the fact that, overlooking the local prejudices which confessedly guide its rivals, it is as ready to honor worth and character in Tennessee, as in Massachusetts.—*Pittsburg Gazette.*