

such a place as that, and let her get married right off if she wants to. I can't give her no other as I see. She's always worked hard every minute, and always I have to, while she stays at home." I caught his two rough, honest hands in mine, and pressed them in gratitude, but for a moment words failed me—then the full tide of my joy received a check, a pretty effectual check, too, in the thought, that possibly she might not "want to."

The next day was Sunday. I could already walk about a little, and was to leave on Monday. The family went church, except Susan, who volunteered to stay, and prepare tea, against their return.

"Now I must decide my fate to day," thought I, with some trepidation, as they drove from the door; but she handed me the last papers, and then absorbed herself so completely in a book, that I did not like to interrupt her. I read and re-read the advertisements, which somehow I couldn't very clearly understand; in fact, one column lasted me all the morning, and a part of the afternoon, while the dear cause of all this distraction sat quietly on the lounge before me, and though her eyes sometimes wandered sadly from the page, they never wandered towards me; and would, after a moment, return resolutely to her reading again.

"An incorrigibly vulgar hand, isn't it—so different from Cora's!" she said, quietly, as if uttering my thoughts, as she looked up with an arch smile. In truth, my eyes had been fixed upon her hand; but, without seeing it, for I was turning over in my brain, for the thousandth time, what I should say and how I should say it.

"And why is it vulgar? In the service of love, it has received marks more honorable than a warrior's scars; but every one is a proof of the unselfish devotion of your heart, O Susie, I should be more proud to win this faithful hand, than the fairest fingers ever nursed by selfish idleness—may not hope sometime to call it mine?"

"Oh, why do you talk so to me! Indeed you forget yourself," she said, springing up, with a look of mingled astonishment and reproach. "Poor Cora! have you been trifling with her?"

"Cora does not love me. I have been trifling sought for any heart but hers—if must despair of gaining that—O, it will be hard to live!" I ended, passionately; while a sudden conviction that all was lost, seemed to stab me with its deadly chill. My paleness put the dear girl's reserve all to flight.

"I love you now, indeed I love you!" she said, changing her first tone of simple earnestness, to one so sweet and fervent, that it seemed to her thrilled listener like the very utterance of a soul. Then the thought of what she had said, overwhelming her with sweet confusion, she would have hurried away, but I caught her in my arms, and pressed a fond kiss upon the sweet lips, which had given me more than life. Then I told her what pain I had suffered, from her avoidance; and the many little ways in which she had seemed to show indifference towards me. And she said—

"I shall never forget what that mingled confidence and timidity, what fitting blushes and smiles and tears—that she had tried not to think too much of me, ever since we first met; had tried to rejoice in Cora's happiness for she had not once thought it possible that she herself could be preferred; that sometimes when she heard me speak disparagingly of mere beauty, she had thought she might have been the one beloved, had she been educated as well as Cora. In this true confidence the time flew by, till Susie thought of the church goes, and tea."

When I saw her graceful form swallowed up by that everlasting kitchen so exactly as it had always been before, the sunshine seemed to have vanished with her, and I feared my happiness had all been a dream, till she returned through the room on some household errand, and her eyes stealing timidly to mine, and gathering confidence from what they read there, blessed me with one of those looks—how shall I describe them?—mere words can give no idea of their sweetness, to one who has never felt it—who has never been loved—looks, that come with the confidence of petted children, nestling in the heart, where they were sure of welcome—looks, that brighten with their love, every day of my life, now, and which memory hoards to cheer lonely rides and midnight watches.

Mrs. Kendall's consent to our marriage was granted more readily than I anticipated. A professional man, however penniless, she considered a brilliant match, and was proud that her daughter had made such a conquest, though she evidently wondered that it had not been Cora.

It took many vivid representations of the loneliness to which I must return, to win Susie's consent to our immediate marriage. Indeed, I think it was at last owing to the fact, that a widowed sister of her father's having been invited to make her home with him, proved to be very capable and industrious, and therefore of great assistance to Mrs. Kendall.

What Cora thought of it, I never knew; she busied herself in getting up a wedding party unprecedented in that place, at which she shone pre-eminent; but know that my gentle bride received more homage from one heart, than mere superficial grace ever elicited from crowds.

We were immediately established in the little home at the village, which Mr. Kendall's generosity had provided; a home which its presiding angel made more truly such than the proudest palace could have been without such a spirit. There was not a particle of distrust in Susie's nature; and the assurance of being loved and understood, dissipated that cold reserve which had made her character seem so apathetic at first. To me, she expressed herself with all the confidence and freedom of thinking aloud; and I was surprised at the depth of her feeling, the truth and freshness of her thoughts, on subjects which her former silence, when they were discussed, led me to suppose she took no interest in. It was a pleasure to explain anything to her; she seemed to listen with such intelligent interest, to comprehend so readily. But once, when I had been instructing, at some length, an illusion which puzzled her, she sank into a very brown study.

"Susie,"—and I sat down beside her,— "the room is changed with your changed face; even the firelight seems a very different thing; what can make you so serious, love?"

She laid her head on my shoulder, and fairly burst into tears.

"I am thinking you will soon get tired of my ignorance; I cannot understand you, or a companion for you, as I want to, and then—though I know you mean to always love me, dear, faithful Susie, I don't see how you can help wishing you had married another woman."

"There is not another woman in the wide world wiser than my darling wife, in that which most concerns our happiness; and that wisdom I can never cease to love, to reverence while I yet live; yet, if you would like to study—I believe you would like—why cannot you go to school? Miss Denyah's first term has not been commenced a week yet, and you told me yesterday, that your house-work was so little, you wished I would find you something to do; and since you have finished all the sewing, I shall want none for a long time; there don't seem to be anything else to set my industrious little wife about. Come, let me wipe away those tears, and tell me what you think of it—wouldn't you like to go?"

"Oh, no, I cannot think of it; for what would you do for dinner, when I was at school? If you will show me about it, I should like to study at home."

"You would find that very dull, love; the order and emulation of school, makes the labor of acquisition much less. I will look over the lessons with you in the evening. I want to refresh my knowledge of those half-forgotten studies; and we can recite to each other, till you outdo all the other young ladies in school. As for dinner, we can eat bread and milk, and some of that excellent fruit, which grows in the garden. I should like that better than to have you sweltering over a stove, to get so many hot meals every day. It would be healthier for us too; you don't know how I have longed for such simple food, at greasy boarding houses, where a profusion of unwholesome dainties took the place of fresh fruit and good bread."

Susie finally consented to try the school for a week, though she still seemed afraid that I should suffer in some way; but the housekeeping went on as smoothly as usual. She knew so thoroughly well how to do everything in the quickest and best manner, that it seemed to take very little of her time. We had warm suppers, instead of dinners, and the washing was done on Saturday, conclusively disproving the old adage about slovens washing on that day.

She became much interested in her school, and in soon grew quite proud of the position she held among her classmates, many of them older than herself. No one could be more pleased about all this than her father, who ascertaining that it was his business to educate his daughters, insisted on paying her tuition, which was quite an assistance to us, just then.

Three years have passed since then—three short sunny years. Susan has not been at school all the time. One term she devoted to entertaining an old aunt, my only relative, whom she persuaded to leave her lonely home and visit us. At another time, she nursed me through a contagious fever, and stayed from school six months afterward, for I fear I should come in tired or sick, and need her care when she was away.

She has lately discovered an old thesis of mine, written to prove that no one should enter upon the duties of matrimony, before the age of twenty-five, which she says gives her plenty of time for a good education before her matrimonial duties begin; but I cannot imagine how those duties can be more faithfully performed, than they are now.

Her cultivated voice equals Cora's in the village choir, and far out-wards it at home. Her vivacity, the natural overflow of a happy, innocent heart, astonishes those who knew her silent, unappreciated girlhood, and her manner has gradually acquired that indescribable grace, the rarest charm of the belle, or coquette, which I believe springs more directly from the certainty of pleasing, the consciousness of being admired, than is generally imagined. Her beauty, now that is tastefully clad, is loudly acknowledged by those who could not see it before, though she is scrupulously careful not to out-dress Cora. Dear father Kendall loves to spend a few hours with "Susie," in our sunny sitting-room, whenever he comes to the village, and her visits home are gladly welcomed by her mother, and Cora, who seemed to think that is doing well, considering it was only Susie. "Only Susie!" the light of a happy home, the life of a happy home, the life of our village society, and more than light or life to one worshipping heart—my priceless wife is growing into noble and intelligent womanhood.

I meant to have noticed before ending these reminiscences, whether "those hands" had grown any prettier, but she is off, this moment to school; it was but now I felt their light touch, her stolen kiss, (taken without an equivalent) is yet warm upon my forehead; but she has reached the gate, and rejoined a merry group of school companions; perhaps it is well; how could I be a disinterested judge of hands, that bestow on me so many unbought favors, so many a loved caress.

Last night, when I had reached the last page of my newspapers, pen, ink and ledger, were brought from the office, and placed noiselessly beside me, as usual; a silent nod was the only acknowledgement for too delicate attention, so grateful to my tired frame. (I have plenty of practice now.) Susie was about to resume her pencil, but she paused, and laying her hands upon my shoulder, looked archly into my face and said, "Do you know, Dr. Jeune, that you are a most remarkable man?"

"I know a certain visionary young lady who thinks so," was the answer. "Ah! but I know so; when Aunt Rachel was here, two years ago, she told me I was spoiling you, that everything depended on a young wife's beginning right; that if I did not stop waiting on my husband now, in a year or two, when I had more cares, he would expect the same attention as a right, and think himself neglected, if I did not slave myself to wait on him; not that he would mean to be selfish, but would get used to it, as to forget that it was a favor, unless he was a very remarkable man—a very great exception to mankind in general. I told her that it might be so. It was very natural, certainly, but my husband was so unselfish, and good at heart, that he deserved to be waited on all his life, if he did forget to notice it by and by; yet just now when I brought your ledger your dear eyes said 'thank you, Susie,' as plainly as ever," and tears of tenderness filled her own.

"My darling! I pray to God, that the influence of long use, and habit, may never betray me into expecting, as a matter of course, or accepting unthankfully, the angel's service."

The Mansfield, (Tioga county, Pa.) Classical Seminary was destroyed by fire on the 22d ult. A portion of the furniture was saved in a damaged state. The building was valued at \$5,000, and insured for \$12,000. The furniture worth about \$5,000, was uninsured.

A bill prohibiting hawking and peddling in Susquehanna county, has passed both branches of the Legislature and become a law.

Bradford Reporter.

E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

TOWANDA:

Thursday Morning, May 7, 1857.

TERMS.—One Dollar per annum, invariably in advance.—Four weeks previous to the expiration of a subscription, notice will be given by a printed wrapper, and if not received, the paper will in all cases be stopped.

CUTTINGS.—The Reporter will be sent to Clubs at the following extremely low rates:—6 copies for \$5.00 | 15 copies for \$12.00 | 10 copies for \$8.00 | 20 copies for \$15.00

ADVERTISEMENTS.—For a square of ten lines or less.—One Dollar for three or less insertions, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent insertion.

JOB-PRINTING.—Executed with accuracy and despatch, and at a reasonable price—with every facility for doing Books, Blanks, Hand-bills, Ball tickets, &c.

Money may be sent by mail, at our risk—enclosed in an envelope, and properly directed, we will be responsible for its safe delivery.



FOR GOVERNOR,
DAVID WILMOT, of Bradford Co.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,
WM. MILLWARD, of Philadelphia.

FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT,
JOSEPH J. LEWIS, of Chester Co.
JAMES VEBCH, of Fayette County.

JUDGE WILMOT'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

In another column will be found a letter from Judge Wilmot, accepting the nomination for Governor. It is an able, manly, and earnest document, such as might have been expected from the author, asserting in eloquent language the Rights of Free Labor. The positions assumed appeal directly to the hearts and consciences and interests of the 'tolling millions' of the country, to all of which Slavery and Slave Labor is so diametrically opposed. The man must be bigotted indeed, or willfully stubborn, who can read this letter without feeling that its statements are correct, and that its author is only seeking to stay the growing power of that mighty Aristocracy, which has no sympathies in common with the Free Laboring Man, but would degrade him to a level with their human chattels. We shall be greatly mistaken if the people of Pennsylvania do not, at the ballot-box, express their approbation of the views and principles expressed in this letter, and their appreciation of the high purposes and consistent course of the author.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

The Convention of School Directors held at this place on Monday last, was not very fully attended, owing to the storm, which prevented many from reaching town. Prof. CHARLES R. COBURN was elected County Superintendent, with a salary of \$1000.

We had looked with much confidence to a full Convention, and we learn from every quarter of the County that arrangements had been made for a general attendance of the Directors—but the severity of the storm on Monday was such as to keep at home many who had calculated upon being present. Our regret, however, is diminished by the fact, that but two names were presented to the Convention as candidates—those of Prof. COBURN and Eld. GEO. LANDON—both of whom are universally admitted to combine all those qualities of education, and experience and skill, necessary for an efficient discharge of the duties of the office. In the hands of either, the Common School cause was safe, and the office of County Superintendent would have a fair trial.

Mr. COBURN having been elected we bespeak for him the confidence and co-operation of the friends of education throughout the County. He enters upon the duties of the office under many and unusual disadvantages; with a wide spread prejudice against the office itself, on the part of the public, coupled with but a faint hope that it may be made useful. He will devote his whole time to the welfare of the Common Schools, entering into the work *con amore*, bringing to it the experience of many years, and a heartfelt devotion to their interests.

The liberal spirit manifested by the convention was worthy of remark, and praise. As unfavorable as has been the experience of the past three years, there was a general disposition to give the office a fair trial, and for that purpose a liberal salary was cheerfully voted.

In answer to many inquiries we would state that the term of office of the Superintendent will commence on the first Monday in June next, being the first day of that month.

The Canandaigua and Elmira Road (from Jefferson to Canandaigua) was sold last week under foreclosure of the third mortgage. It brought \$55,000, and the rolling stock, &c., \$15,000. The road is subject to two prior mortgages, in the aggregate \$500,000, and to about \$15,000 due the operatives on the road. The third mortgage bond holders will receive about 10c. in the dollar. The stock and fourth mortgage are wiped out.—The road was purchased by parties in Elmira, Penn-Yan and Providence, R. I., and will be put in good running order at once. A similar sale of the Canandaigua and Niagara Falls Railroad will take place shortly, when it is thought that the two roads will fall into the hands of one company and be consolidated.

FIRE AT OWEEO.—The stables connected with the Ahwaga House took fire on Monday night last, and were consumed, with nine horses, two omnibuses and a large quantity of other property. We do not learn whether there was any insurance. The many friends of Mr. BROWER in this vicinity will be pained to hear of this calamity, which we trust is not as serious as reported.

DEPLORABLE CASUALTY.—In the former part of last week, a boy named George M'Collum, aged about 13 years, resident of East Buffalo township, Union County, came to his death in the following manner. It appears that he had quantity of gunpowder in his pocket, and having laid down upon a pile of straw, he fell asleep. While in this situation, (and matches it is supposed, in his pocket,) the powder ignited, set fire to his clothing and the straw, burning him terribly. Medical aid was brought into requisition, and poultices applied to ease the pain, and, if possible to save his life. He lingered in intense agony until Friday morning, when he died.

REPUBLICAN VICTORIES.—The recent elections in the West have shown that the Republican fires are burning brightly. The majority for Republican Judges of the Supreme Court in Wisconsin will be 12,000, and, perhaps, more. Michigan has again rebuked Gen. CASS and the doughfaces, by giving her Republican Supreme Judges nearly 12,000 majority, and electing six of the eight Circuit Judges, the Democrats having but one, and a union of all other parties having defeated the Republican candidate in one other district.—The Republicans have likewise carried the eight University Regents. In Iowa, the election for Judges, Treasurer, and the local officers was not warmly contested, the vote having been very light, and the result doubtful.

The Pennsylvania Democratic State Convention is called by Charles R. Buckalew, its Chairman, "to re-assemble at Harrisburg, on Tuesday the 9th day of June next, at 10 A. M., for the purpose of nominating candidates to complete the State Ticket, and transacting all other business pertaining to the original authority of the Convention." Wm. Strong of Berks, and Wm. A. Stokes of Westmoreland, are prominent candidates for nomination to the vacant Judgeship.

In the Senate, on the 29th ult., the Appropriation bill being under consideration, Mr. MYER moved to resume the consideration of Section 35, appropriating \$81,000 for the completion of the North Branch, and for the repair of the same, for the year ending Nov. 20, 1857, under the superintendence of W. R. MAFFET, which was agreed to by 22 yeas, to 8 nays.

SALE OF THE MAIN LINE.—The bill for the sale of the Main Line of the Public Works of the State passed the House of Representatives on Thursday afternoon, by a vote of 51 to 41. The price asked is \$7,500,000, if sold to any other party than the Pennsylvania R. R. Company; but if that Company shall become the purchaser, the price is to be \$9,000,000, in consideration of the repeal of the tonnage tax now paid by them to the State.

The only interesting news from Europe by the steamer Africa is the birth of the ninth child of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.—It is a daughter, and its advent occurred on the 17th ultimo without anything to mar the happiness of the event. Mother and child both doing well. There is a slight decline in cotton.

MINNESOTA.—Governor Gorman, of Minnesota, has issued a proclamation calling for an extra session of the Legislature of that Territory, for April 27th, "for the purpose of enacting such laws as may be deemed necessary to enable the people to form a State Constitution, preparatory to being admitted into the Union as a State."

LANDS WITHDRAWN FROM MARKET.—The President, upon recommendation of the General Land Office, has directed the withdrawal from the sale to be held in Iowa on the 4th proximo, that portion of the public lands upon which the Indians have recently been committing depredations, murdering the settlers and destroying their homes, &c.

At the Mayor's election in Leavenworth, Kansas, 300 Free State men voted. Only 80 of them are enrolled by the Border Ruffians, and none others can vote at the bogus State Convention.

William B. Gillis, a transcribing clerk in the House of Representatives, from Elk county, a nephew of Judge Gillis, died in Harrisburg on Wednesday.

All the Democratic papers in the State appear to be turning Know Nothing—all very anxious to get up a Know Nothing State Ticket, (and no doubt using money to that end).

The Apportionment bills have gone to a Committee of Conference. It is extremely doubtful if they are able to agree upon a report, and not improbable that an Apportionment will not be passed this session.

The Susquehanna river has been for several days swollen to full banks, by the rains and the melting snow. We do not hear any damage having been done to the Canal, or to property.

The first number of the Philadelphia Weekly Times will be issued this week, and will contain an interesting biographical sketch of Hon. DAVID WILMOT, with a portrait.

COL. FORNEY.—It is stated that Col. Forney has purchased one-fourth of the Pennsylvania, published in Philadelphia, and will assume the editorial control of its columns on or about the first of May.

TRULY SAD AFFLICTION.—JOHN S. RICHARDS, esq., an eminent lawyer of Reading, has been lying ill for two weeks of erysipelas. A week ago his mother and sister, residing at Columbia, proceeded to Reading to attend him in his illness. Both were soon after seized with typhoid fever, and on Saturday last both died,—the mother in the morning, and the sister in the evening. Mr. RICHARDS' condition is so critical as not to permit his being informed of the calamitous dispensation of Providence which in one day removed both these watching angels from his sick couch.

HENRY C. HICKOK, Esq., (former Deputy,) to be the Superintendent of Common Schools for Pennsylvania, under the law making that a separate and independent Department.

The Senate confirmed the nomination, unanimously. The appointment is for three years from the 1st of June next.

We have received from Harrisburg, the new fee bill, and will furnish the same, gratis, to justices and others, as long as the supply lasts, on application at this office.

A MERITIOUS ACT.—On last Sabbath morning, JAMES EDWARD, a son of Mr. Achenbach, of Berwick, a lad eight years, was riding a horse to the river to water, in company with his elder brother, who was also riding one and leading two others. While at the falls—the place where they were accustomed to water them—the horses became unmanageable, and the one which James was riding gave a sudden leap from the slope wall directly into the river, precipitating the boy over his head some twenty feet from shore. The water being very high and the current swift, the boy was carried down the stream at rapid rate. Just at this moment Wm. B. AVERY, a son of the Rev. J. R. AVERY, Pastor of the Congregational Church, in the town of Franklin, Connecticut, was standing on the bank of the river witnessing the awful struggle the little fellow was making to save his life. From the nature of the falls at this place—the steepness of the slope wall and the stage of the water, to jump in to the boy's rescue, was almost certain death to both; yet, as the little fellow's head appeared above the water for the last time, with his little hands stretched heavenward, as if imploring help, Mr. AVERY, without making any preparation whatever, plunged into the rapids to his aid, and as he was going down, encircled his arms around the boy's waist and with great difficulty reached the shore and saved James Edward from a watery grave. No man, but at the peril of losing his own life could have saved this drowning boy. The example of Mr. AVERY, a stranger as he is, and knowing not whose son he was rescuing from the water, is worthy of imitation, and justly deserves the admiration of the world.—*Bloomersburg Republican.*

ROMAN CATHOLICS.—We learn from the Binghamton Republic of the 28th ult., that the mission of the Redeemers is still in progress at the Roman Catholic Chapel of that village. The following was the programme on Tuesday evening last:

This evening the ceremony of renewing the baptismal vow is to take place, and a sermon preached explaining and vindicating the true doctrines of the Catholic Church, to which Protestants are invited to listen. This evening every member of the church is to take a sperm candle, which is to be left after the services for the use of the altar.

To prevent any mistakes in the candles, and to insure uniformity in them, the congregation were informed that several boxes of candles would be at the door of the church, where they could be procured from men in attendance at eight cents a piece. Sperm will be in demand this evening and must rise in market.—The congregation were also informed, for the next three days seven priests would be in attendance at the church to receive confessions, all would have an opportunity to confess; and were exhorted to avail themselves of the privilege. This mission is undoubtedly very effectual in reviving the church, and may be called the "protracted meeting" of the Catholics.

PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN.—The consistent course of the Republican party is shown by the fact suggested by the Gettysburg Star, that both of the cabinet officers of Gov. SHUNK—Gen. JOHN N. PERRYMAN, of Butler, and JOHN LAPOINTE, of Bradford—are on the American-Republican State Committee. These men are both true Democrats, and repudiate that spurious Democracy which has but one purpose—the increase of the slave power, by the extension over new Territories of the aristocratic, labor-degrading and corrupting institution of slavery. Such a party is no longer worthy of the support of American citizens.

A MANIC IN A STAGE.—A strange affair, resulting in the possible death of three persons, took place about two miles from Eddyville, Iowa, on the 10th inst. As one of the Western stage company coaches reached that point, a passenger by the name of Jos. Patterson, Jr., from Joliet, Illinois, in whose previous appearance nothing singular had been observed, exclaimed, "Why did you kill my cousin?" With a pistol and dirk-knife he then commenced the most terrible onslaught upon the passengers, mortally wounding Dr. Simmons of Knoxville, Marion County, Ohio, and severely injuring a Mr. Hylawder of Jasper County, Iowa. He was an entire stranger to all the parties injured, and insanity can only be assigned to the commission of the act.

Abraham Frymire, of Upper Paxton township, Dauphin county, hung himself in his barn, on the 4th ult. The deceased was a man in good circumstances, but in the sale and purchase of some land, there some difficulties involving the title, which, preying upon his mind, caused him to commit the rash act. He leaves a wife but no children.

Morrow B. Lowry, in a speech that he made in the State Convention declared that he had "attended seventeen Democratic Conventions in his time, and in the whole seventeen there was not as much talent as there was to be found in the Republican Convention." A very candid admission and truthful declaration.

In Winchester, Conn., there has not been a death in one and a half years. The village is surrounded by 100 smoking coal pits, and besides, there is no physician in the place.

Letter of Acceptance from Hon. D. Wilmot.

TOWANDA, April 27, 1857.

Gentlemen: On my return home, after an absence of two weeks, I found your communication informing me of my nomination as a candidate for the office of Governor, by a convention of the Freemen of Pennsylvania, opposed to the leading measures of the late and present National Administrations, which assembled at the State Capitol on the 25th ultimo; together with a copy of the declaration of principles promulgated by that Convention.

I accept the position to which I am called by the unsolicited suffrage of the body whose organ you are; and profoundly grateful for so distinguished a mark of the confidence of my fellow citizens, yet painfully sensible of my inability to meet its responsible obligations.

The approaching election is one of no ordinary interest. Important questions of State policy, affecting the public welfare and prosperity, are not alone involved in the issues presented. As one of the largest and most powerful of the sovereign States of our confederate Republic, the honor and interests of Pennsylvania are deeply concerned in the principles that animate our National Government. She cannot, with safety to her Independence and the liberties of her people, be indifferent to the momentous questions of National import, in progress of settlement—questions touching the constitutional powers of the federal Government, and vitality affecting the dignity and rights of free labor. Nor can she, without dishonor, withhold her protest against the wrongs inflicted upon her sons in a distant Territory, under the license of Federal authority.

The dearest rights of freemen, secured by plain constitutional guarantee, are ruthlessly violated on the soil of our national domain. American citizens are made the victims of a tyranny unknown in the despotisms of the old world. The annals of civilized and christian nations furnish no examples of cruelty and outrage on the part of a government towards its people, such as has been endured by the people of Kansas; unless they be found in the persecutions of the Huguenots under Louis the Fourteenth, of France, and of the Protestants of the Netherlands, by the Duke of Alva, under Philip second, King of Spain. Indeed, the barbarities to which the people of Kansas have been exposed, were of a character so inhuman as to provoke incredulity in the minds of a large portion of our citizens. Thousands have been deceived into the belief, that, for partisan purposes, fictitious were substitute for facts; although no events in American history are better authenticated, than are the murders, robberies, arson and lawless rapacity inflicted upon the free settlers of Kansas.—These outrages had for their object the subjugation of that Territory to the curse of slavery.

We speak of quiet being restored to Kansas, because armed bands of lawless men do not today infest her highways and plunder her people; because her towns are not sacked and the cabins of her settlers in flames. This peace is deceptive and insecure. It will be broken the moment that the people of Kansas make a vigorous effort to recover those rights of which they have been fraudulently and violently deprived. The purpose of her enslavement is inexorably pressed forward. A system of ingeniously devised fraud, kindred to that employed in the usurpation under which she now groans, is being carried out for the consummation of this great wrong. To this end, also, the power of the Federal Government is basely prostituted. We are given words of fairness, but persistence in support of the wrong. Every appointee of the President in Kansas is an active co-worker in the scheme for her enslavement.

Principles of eternal truth and justice, which lie at the foundation of a Christian civilization, and upon which repose the rights of humanity, are defiantly assailed by the power that controls in our National Government. Those truths, declaratory of the natural and inalienable rights of man, contained in the Great Charter of our liberties, are condemned by our highest judicial authority as unmeaning and false. The sanctuary of our Courts of justice is closed against an entire race of men. The poor and downtrodden are not allowed to petition for a redress of their wrongs, in those tribunals of human government that should most nearly represent the beneficent attributes of the Creator and final Judge of all men.

In view of these incontestable facts—of the wrongs perpetrated against the rights of American citizenship, and the dangers to which our liberties are exposed—thus presented in its true aspect—the contest before us assumes a dignity rarely given to human affairs, and imposes duties upon our citizens as high and solemn as ever appealed to the hearts and consciences of men. The question is before us—from its demands there is no escape. Decide we must, either for the right or for the wrong. Sooner or later the verdict of this great Commonwealth must be pronounced on the issues forced upon the country by the advocates of human bondage. History will record that verdict to her enduring honor, or to her everlasting shame.

The repeal of the Missouri Restriction, and the attempt to force slavery upon Kansas by fraud and violence, precipitated upon the country a conflict between the antagonistic systems of free and servile labor. In the issue of this conflict is involved the democratic character of our institutions of government, and the independence, dignity and rights of the free white laboring man and his posterity.

Slavery is the deadly enemy of free labor. The two cannot coexist on the same field of enterprise. Either labor will vindicate its right to freedom, or it will sink into dependence and dishonor. Free labor is clothed with intelligence and power. It stands erect in the dignity of a true manhood. It sustains by its energies all the noble institutions of a refined and perfectly developed social life. It is the source of our prosperity and national greatness. Slavery is labor in ignorance and chains—a brutalized humanity, stimulated to industry by the lash of a master. It makes the laborer an article of merchandise, without aim and without hope. In the place of an intelligent citizen, ready to defend with his life the honor and interests of his country, slavery gives to the State an ignorant savage, to be held in subjection. It endangers the social fabric by converting its great element of strength into an implacable enemy.

Never, in the history of partisan warfare, were men more unjustly and perseveringly misrepresented than are the opponents of the extension of slavery. This arises in part from the intolerant nature of slavery, and the weapons it is necessitated to employ, and partly from the fact—so omnipotent has the slave power become in our government—that sup-