

COMMUNICATIONS.

Chapter on American Slavery.

(Continued.)

In 1787, the North Western territory was organized. Thomas Jefferson inserted in the Bill, an Article commonly known as "Jefferson's Ordinance of 87." Stating that, as the Territories were minors and the mutual property of the States, the general Congress has a legal right to make all "needful rules and regulations," pertaining to said Territories and "there should be neither Slavery nor involuntary Servitude, except for the punishment of Crime, in any territory belonging to the United States." This Ordinance continued in force, until the States it comprised, adopted State Constitutions and admitted into the Union as free States.

In 1803, the U. S. purchased of France, the tract of land, known as the Louisiana territory. This gave the U. S. command of the Mississippi river and a vast tract comprising the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri and the territories of Nebraska and Kansas. At that time the "institution" was located in Louisiana! and thus she was admitted into the Union.

In 1819 Missouri knocked at the door of the Union for admission, bearing with her a pro-slavery constitution. The North was astonished at this breach of National honor on the part of their Southern brethren. They told the South that they had repeatedly given away to their entreaties, and that the time had come when a bound must be put to the extension of Slavery.

Several Slave States had already been admitted, and all in violation of plighted faith. And Missouri with her Slave constitution, was refused admittance.

In 1820, she again applied for admission, again bringing her pro-slavery constitution. The north remained firm in its position, and would not yield to the demands of this bill, which extended slavery into Missouri. Violent discussions arose, and the controversy threatened the dissolution of the Union. In fact, some of the Southern States talked boldly of seceding, unless Missouri was admitted. The controversy lasted the greater part of a session of Congress, neither party being disposed to yield. Finally a compromise was effected between the belligerents. The new constitution did not contain anything in regard to Slavery, but by one of its amendments, slavery was "forever prohibited" north of 36° 30 min. north latitude. This compromise gave slavery a foothold in Missouri, but was to "forever" prohibit its extension north of 36° 30 min. The freemen of the North remonstrated against this breach of national honor; but finally gave away under the promise, that by this act the Slavery question was to be forever settled. This was to be a matter of finality and slavery was never to be again agitated in our Legislative Halls. The Southern slaveholders said they were satisfied, and had got all the territory they ever desired; and pledged themselves through their Representatives, never again to bring this matter up for agitation. They said the North had not only been just and honorable, but generous and magnanimous; and held numerous meetings, expressive of their joy. In short, the whole south was enraptured, while the north was justly covered with gloom. Sad were the feelings of the sons of Freedom at this triumph of Despotism and partial overthrow of Liberty.

Thirty years had passed away and slavery seemed to have ceased to agitate the political world. Missouri had already become a slave state and was distinguished only for the enormous traffic that it carried or within its boundaries. Arkansas also, under the compromise measures was admitted as a slave state. Slavery for thirty years appeared inactive to the world, but recent discoveries show that it was only prostrating, as fast as possible the lands allotted it by the compromise of 1820.

By that act they acquired an immense tract of fertile land which furnished profitable employment for the property of the slave holder. The surplus negroes of the slave states were immediately carried west of the Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri were rapidly settled with a slave population. It appears that while they were eagerly devouring the spoils acquired by the act of 1820, they had not time to cry for more territory. But as soon as the allotted space began to be populated the enterprising began to covet more land. They realized that the land south of 36° 30 min. was not sufficient to last them any great length of time and they began to invent means to acquire more. We have seen that the Slave Oligarchy was a powerful combination, sufficiently so to wield the reins of government; and as a matter of course aspiring office-seekers wished to court its good will. On the other hand, the South is ever ready to support any person for office that will use his influence to extend slavery. Politicians are aware of this, and numbers of northern men have been drawn under its influence. It is the nature of mankind in general to be ambitious of renown; and to secure to themselves the most advantageous means of acquiring it; and knowing that slave stock is above par at the Ballot box, numbers of eminent men of the present day are deceived from the principles they professed at home, on arriving at the seat of government, consequently becoming tools of the southern Aristocracy. Wielding the influence it does, it was not difficult for it to find votaries among northern members, to bring this question into agitation again, on the promises of futurity.

In the spring of 1854, Senator Douglas introduced a bill, directing Congress to organize Kansas and Nebraska under a territorial form of government. Mr. Mason inserted an amendment, declaring the Missouri Compromise "inoperative and void of effect." Douglas & Co., advocated a doctrine they called "Popular Sovereignty," and pretended the people had a right to admit slaves if they saw fit. After living under the compromise measures a generation; they now for the first time perceived it was unconstitutional, and that Congress had no authority over the inhabitants of the territories.

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Trouble in Kentucky.

We have yesterday a letter from a Richmond (Ky.) paper, dated July 2, in which it was mentioned that in consequence of a mob of Pro-Slavery men having prevented the Rev. John G. Fee from preaching, Cassius M. Clay had publicly announced his intention of going to the scene of disturbances and enforcing the freedom of speech; and that a large number of persons volunteered to accompany him, armed, for the same purpose. In The Cincinnati Gazette, received by yesterday's mail, we find a letter from Mr. Clay, dated the 19th, addressed to the editors of that paper, apparently written under great excitement. In giving it, The Gazette says: "At the time of writing he was preparing to leave home for Dripping Springs, there to make an effort to establish the freedom of speech. He would go armed, and sustained by a pretty formidable force, and he expected to be met by armed representatives from five counties. Clay resolved that Fee should be permitted to speak, or if put down, it should be over his dead body. There was the most intense excitement in the county. Houses had been deserted and negroes thrown into jail."

Mr. Clay's letter announced that on the next day, Friday last, the 20th inst., he would leave for the field of contest, "to determine whether the liberty of speech and religious freedom are longer possible in a Slave State." He tells us that Mr. Fee was falsely accused of distributing tracts to slaves, and exciting insurrection; that he sent to The Louisville Courier a denial of the accusation, but that paper suppressed it, though it had previously incited the mob and permitted violence to be done to an innocent man.

Mr. Clay undertook his vindication, but was also refused a hearing; and finding that common justice was denied to him and his party, he resolved that freedom of speech should not be suppressed without a struggle. The well-known determined character of Mr. Clay, and the fact that he is supported by a strong party of his neighbors and friends, leads many persons to fear that bloodshed would be the result of this affair. Had such occurred the telegraph would probably have advised us. Although the contest is between citizens of the same State, a general interest in the issue is felt everywhere, as this proscription of clergymen by mobs seems to be spreading eastward from Missouri.

In The Louisville Courier we find a sort of explanation of Mr. Clay's efforts on behalf of Mr. Fee. By this it seems that the mob in Rockcastle County notified Messrs. Clay, Fee "and all other Abolition speakers and preachers," that they must desist from speaking in that County, under penalty of being lynched. On receiving this notice, Clay immediately published a long letter in reply, concluding with an announcement that both he and Mr. Fee would speak at Scaffold Cave, Rockcastle County, on Saturday. It was to this contest that Mr. Clay was going when he wrote to The Cincinnati Gazette.

Later—No Riot—Mr. Clay and Mr. Fee kept the appointment and were heard. There was some difficulty about getting the church, as there was an appointment for a sermon by the Baptist clergyman in the morning. It was however surrendered to Mr. Clay at the close of the service, and at 12 o'clock John G. Fee commenced speaking. He concluded his remarks without interruption, and was followed by Mr. Clay. Both speakers were listened to attentively and no violence was offered or talked of.

The Only Safety For Freedom. On the 6th of July, 1854, the opponents of Slavery extension in Tioga county, without distinction of party, met together en masse at Wellsboro to take counsel as to their duty in the present condition of National affairs. They chose the Hon. R. G. White President of said meeting, and after listening to a plain statement of the aggressions of Slavery by the Hon. D. Wilmot, a series of resolutions were adopted defining their position, and the duty of freemen. Among these resolutions was the following, which asserts a truth we again ask to have considered by the people of this county:

"Resolved, That the union of freemen, without regard to former political attachments, is the only safety for freedom."

Unlike their associates in this county, the Tioga democrats meant something when they adopted the above resolution, as is shown by their votes. In 1851, when Bigler first ran for Governor, they gave him 578 majority; but in 1854, being allied with the party that passed the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and being in fact responsible for the success of that fraud, the Tioga democrats, seeing that "the only safety for freedom" was in the union of freemen without regard to former political attachments, gave a majority against him of 957.

Our advice from that county are, that the union of freemen, regardless of old party ties, is far more hopeful now than last year; and this intelligence comes from leading old line democrats. The same principle is at work throughout the Free States, which leads us to inquire what is there to prevent union in this county. The mass of th old line democracy are as much opposed to Slavery outrages as their associates in Tioga county. They desire to vote against the authors of these outrages.

The only obstacle in the way of union in this county, is the selfish plans of a half-dozen leaders in Coudersport. There are not twenty men in the county who do not feel that Slavery ought to be confined to the States where it exists. Then why permit a half-dozen men to control your influence and your votes in such a way as to use you for the support of Slavery? You admire the manly independence of your Tioga brethren. Then why not imitate their noble example? The Wilmot District is a unit on this question between Freedom and Slavery. If the honest opponents of the Rule of Slavery have here-tofore-coming to party, will hereafter live up to their convictions of duty, this county will stand side by side with Tioga, Bradford, and Susquehanna in its support of Freedom.

Coudersport Journal.

There has been a decrease in emigration at the port of New York from last year of 65,279, and compared with 1853 of 56,151.

to obtain the assistance of the police. The latter declined to interfere. The woman and her two children were finally hurried up Dock-st. and put into a cab amid the cheers of the crowd. The vehicle was driven rapidly down town, and the discomfited owner was left to digest his mortification the best way he could. The Virginian stated that he was Minister to one of the Central American Governments.

THE AGITATOR.

H. H. COBB, Editor.

WELLSBOROUGH, PA.

Thursday Morning, Aug. 9, 1855.

NOTICE.—The citizens of Shippen, who are in favor of the immediate and perpetual prohibition of Slavery in all territory under control of Congress, are requested to meet at the Manchester School House on the 18th day of August next, to elect three delegates to attend the Republican Convention at Tioga, on the 23rd day of August following.

Two excellent plank crossings have been made across Main street during the week, metestally improving the facilities for getting about town in wet weather. The walking public is indebted to the enterprise of the merchants mainly, for these conveniences, so we are told.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"Slavery, Past and Present." We have but partially examined your manuscript, but like it first rate. The paper sent as desired.

ELLA ST. CLAIR. Will you be good enough to forward the remainder of your sketch? That submitted is very good.

INCORRIGIBLE. We like your effusion, but must have your real name before publishing it, not for publication but as a guaranty of your good faith.

THE WEATHER.—HARVEST, ETC.—For twelve consecutive days it has fogged, showered, mizzled or drizzled, either one or all, every day. Many tons of hay have rotted in the heap and in the swath. Wheat has suffered considerably from growth, even as it stands uncut in the field. To what extent it is damaged we cannot tell; but that this species of damage is not general we have good authority for believing.

Corn is doing finely. The warm, moist weather of the two weeks has forwarded it beyond the reach of timely frost. Potatoes never looked better—exhibiting the old sign of health in all its fulness, viz: an abundance of blossoms and bolls.

The prospects for fair weather are increasing. The air is a trifle cooler than the fro-dreaded breath of a blast furnace, and the sun has shone on the rocking earth for six consecutive hours!

A few Words about Facts and Slavery.

"Facts are stubborn things." The mere existence of a fact, is not the fulness of its mission. To be rendered most effective, facts must be arraigned at the tribunal of Reason. And they must be presented with an eye to the effect of light and shade. A fact, in effectiveness, may lose half its virtue by an awkward or unskillful presentation. The mission of Facts seems to be the evolution of thought by contact with the speculative faculties. It may be an object, then, to bring each fact into service in such a manner as may best develop its thought-evolving power.

We confess to a good share of admiration for, as well as faith in facts. Verily, they are "stubborn things," and we have pursued, "Facts bearing upon Slavery," in the Balance, with considerable satisfaction; albeit, we can by no means subscribe to the closing remarks of the writer; but this does not affect the facts.

In return, we propose presenting certain facts bearing upon Slavery, interspersed with such comments as may be thought pertinent; for we not only feel it a privilege, but a duty, to comment upon any and all facts connected with the living issues of the day—presuming that every intelligent man and woman reserves the right of private judgment in all things, also.

1. It is a fact, that prior to the Revolutionary War, the fathers of the Republic became convinced that Slavery, then in its infancy and much less hideous than it now is, was incompatible with the enjoyment of those rights with which a just Being has endowed every one of his intelligent creatures. So they cast about to get rid of the evil. Their petitions were disregarded.

2. It is a fact, that to-day, after enjoying comparative independence for nearly a hundred years, 350,000 of their children hold in bondage, spiritual as well as physical, a bondage worse than death—4,000,000 of their fellow men; claiming the right to buy and sell them, in the market places like cattle; to compel their labor without adequate recompense; and to prostitute the females at will, and to degrade them to the condition of the brute. These masters have made laws which render the attempt by any white person to teach the slave to read and write, a penal offence. Contrast these facts.

Again—it is a fact that the men of the Revolution made a Declaration of Rights, called The Declaration of Independence; declaring that all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

It is a fact that 350,000 of their children, professing great veneration for the Declaration of Rights, have destroyed the liberties of 4,000,000 of their fellow men, and deny that all men are endowed by God with the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—how throwing the lie in the teeth of the fathers of this Republic, and spitting upon the sacred instrument they pretend to venerate. And it is a humiliating fact that a junta of demagogues, pretending to be the apostles of democracy, seek to-day, to plant and perpetuate Human Slavery on soil first by God dedicated to Freedom, and secondly so acknowledged by human enactments. Contrast these facts. What harmony!

Again—it is a fact that Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, inserted clauses concerning slavery as a flagrant wrong, and abolishing it in the colonies. These clauses were struck out; and

It is a fact that Jefferson is lauded as the apostle of Democracy by those men who have ever done, and are still doing their utmost to perpetuate Human Slavery, speaking of which, Jefferson once said—"I tremble for my country when I think that God is just!"—first assaying to destroy the right of discussion and of petition, and liberty of the Press; by mob and gag-law measures, and by constituting every freeman in the land a hunter of men and women, without discretionary power, under the penalty of fine and imprisonment; and then vandal-like, destroying the ancient landmarks of Freedom and exposing her fairest fields to the blight of Slavery. Contrast these

facts—so consistent! It is a fact that because England would not recognize the right of our fathers to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," they offered themselves as sacrifices upon the altar of American Freedom. The nations admired and applauded. "America was declared," "a refuge for the oppressed of all nations." Yet it is a fact that those who to-day presume to assert the principles which those brave-hearted men died to vindicate, are set upon by the sleuth-hounds of Slavery, mobbed, lynched and incited with violent death on every hand. And this—the "land of the free" and "home of the brave"—this "asylum for the oppressed of all nations"—holds 4,000,000 of one nation to toil and die, SLAVES! degraded to the brute level, bought and sold like cattle, whipped like dogs, hunted like beasts of prey, women prostituted, children torn from their parents, wives from husbands, sisters from brothers, and sold—mark the word—sold into lifelong bondage—exiled forever! Terrible facts!

It is a fact that thirteen years after the establishment of American Independence, Slavery and Freedom met in the Senate halls—equals! Mark, how thrifflily the noxious weed sprang under the beneficent influence of patriot-blood-bought institutions! Mark, how early the children sped upon the great Declaration of their fathers! "In 43 years they still met as equals!" In 53 years they met as equals; but in less than 70 years they met not as equals for Slavery had worsted Freedom! and hardly ten out of three-score in the Senate were found bold enough to succor Freedom's minority!

It is a fact that Slavery, which limber-backed conservatives tell us "will die of itself," has never lost an inch of its vantage ground in all its long contest with Human Right. It gained by the compromise of 1820—not so much physically as morally. It gained by the war with Mexico. It gained—what did it not gain by the treason of Webster in 1850! It gained Kansas and Nebraska in 1854! And if we do not purge the National and State Legislatures of traitors and puffed-ups, it will plant its black flag before every freeman's door in 1856. Arise, ye freemen of Tioga, ready to accept the curse? Remove the emergency as far from you as the truth will permit, and then it will leave not a moment for sleep or slinking of hands.

It is a fact that the Slave Power instigated a band of ruffians to invade Kansas and to dispossess the actual settlers in that territory of the freeman's dearest right—the right of suffrage.

It is a fact that by the bowie knife and revolver the citizens of Kansas were dispossessed of the right of suffrage, and aliens were elected to the first Kansas Legislature.

It is a fact that these ruffians convened at Pawnee and having organized, proceeded to eject every Free State member from both the lower House and the Council, with a single exception. Every one of these ejected members presented the Governor's certificate of election, which was set aside without ceremony.

It is a fact that these legislative ruffians declared the entire Missouri code to be the laws of Kansas. It follows then, if that Legislature be declared legal; Slavery is established in Kansas. The auction block is already erected in Nebraska.

Now, gentlemen, we have given you several important facts bearing upon the Slavery question. We are not men given to industry, perhaps, than many better men. But we love Justice and hate Oppression. Reason teaches every sentient being that his arm is the servant of Right, against Wrong. Man intuitively perceives that Wrong does not yield the palm to Justice without a struggle. We do not for a moment suppose that Slavery will withdraw away if left to itself—no, history scatters such school-boy arguments to the winds; therefore we are no "sun shine patriot or summer soldier," but in common with the thousands who love Oppression, we have chosen an active part, and shall endeavor to work winter and summer, rain or shine, so long as Freedom needs the services of freemen.

Reason—"Several mongrel sheets in the dark political borders of Pennsylvania," says our excellent friend Beardslee, of the Honorable Herald, mentioning the Agitator in a list of two or three, "are poking long and vulgar quibs at the editor of the Montrose Democrat, because he"—boats of being a Freesoiler and acquiesces in the policy and milk-and-whiskey platform of the Harrisburg hunker Convention. We dare say that Ebenezer needs your help Howlin, for he is "desp'nt hard" put to it to stand on a platform so narrow, and contemptible, withal. Perhaps the drowning ex-Speaker, like the tired Cesar cries—"Help me, Beardslee, or I sink!" It is pretty generally known that Ebenezer boko his neck in that tilt against Judge Wilmut, and he never turned up after his overthrow until the Convention aforesaid. It may be—now that we reflect, it is cruel to squib either of you; you are both perfectly harmless gentlemen; and what is better, you are dangerous foes to no cause except that you advocate, Regueical in pace!

Being in your political dotage, friend B., and as second childhood amuses itself in recalling the images of those things which formed the ambition of manhood, we are not at all surprised to learn that you still hold that all editors are venal—advocating only those doctrines which promise preferment. Still, we object to being judged by your standard. But dear sir! Don't, if you have a jot of respect for the editors allowed to, insinuate that "we, or either of us" envy the "conscience and consistency" of democratic editors! "Ye gods and little fishes!" The whole batch of you may fold your arms and lie down content with the blessed promise—(doubtless designed to comfort democratic editors)—"Blessed be Nothing!"

Some months ago we promised our friend and correspondent, Simpkin Soder, a hearing in these columns. Unfortunately Mr. Soder's communication was mislaid and did not appear. We have had several interviews with the indignant gentleman, in which we have suffered some. Under the threat of having all manner of "hollokes hept out" on us, we give our "bean krik" correspondents a place here:—

Beno Krik, Aggus, on whereabouts. Mister eddytur, sekward door sur. Mr. Sikes, that's our skulomani, has ben to Wellsborow and he sez that its gittin too the fashion to yew kappily letters in Tioga. So I shall foll the fashion for yew wans, becoss I shal yew indigens sir. I thau at yew want wanted to hist nott and yew wans wans want wanted, but mister sikes sez yew wans wans what you did to, incirrigible on off in the skirrimy fur fame—ho mo betra: dushum amart gal i guess, becoss, dar's, so meony claps runnin their beak out to ketch liker. sur, yew air a tryin to git a main liker law just in this kominerwith, with a base, wicked law, besides ben Xtravagant. mr. sikes sez its owndshus. whattrits has the legislator of this vast county to pass a law agin our makin & drinkin our own likker: yew sir! I repeat, it will rite hev they to mark the survivors of beno krik go clean to the state of Main for likker, wile here beno krik runs over with 2 shillin, whiskey! Is the Main likker more purgation? or will it productively the quib. Arimomun more sudden than our likers? No sir! I paln of our liker will yield 1 kash of finely potata; and 40 likker sikes sez, will mark into trouble than 40 barle of Main likker! Star spekulation sur—and the survivors, of beno krik, wont be spekulated onto like kabagoo, sur—yew sir, I repeat it—like K.A.B. BAGES:—

Sur, the Amerikkan Engul dop his wings over

From The Chicago Democratic Press.

Affairs in Kansas.

All our information hitherto with regard to the organization of the Kansas Legislature, having come through Pro-Slavery mediums, it is likely that in one point we have done injustice to Gov. Reeder. According to the statements contained in the following letter, he presented papers to show the illegality of the election of some of the members, but no notice whatever was taken of them:

PAWNEE, K. T., July 7, 1855.

You will no doubt be astonished at the new light thrown upon legislation, constitutional law, and the powers of Congress, by the Legislature of Kansas, which adjourned from this place yesterday after a session of five days. The first bill introduced after the House was organized was to adjourn the Legislature from this place to the Shawnee Mission, or Manual Labor School, located about two miles from Missouri, near Westport.

Mr. Hutchinson, a Free-State member, made a speech against it, arguing that the organic act authorized the Governor to locate the first Legislature and determine the place for holding its sessions; that they had no power to order the Governor to move his office and locate it permanently at the Indian School; that the Government had been at the expense of fitting up a large two-story stone building, sixty feet long by thirty wide, with suitable desks, &c., and the citizens had been at much expense in preparing for their accommodations; and the officers at Fort Riley had generously offered them whatever accommodations they should seek in the town, with a carriage at their service, free of expense, to take them to and from their place of meeting. He thought it unwise, unnecessary and contrary to the organic act making it a Territory, &c. The Speaker, Mr. Stringfellow, said there was no use in spending time to discuss this bill. They had determined what course to pursue two months ago. They had told Gov. Reeder what to expect, &c. The bill finally passed. The Governor vetoed it. It was then passed by a two-third majority. A committee was appointed to wait on the Governor and tell him the result. He replied that by that act they had dissolved themselves; that he should not follow them nor take any further notice of their proceedings. They were no longer a Legislature.

Early the first or second day of the session, a resolution was introduced appointing a committee on contested elections, with instructions to examine persons and papers. No seat was contested. No person was sent for. But on the second day after their appointment the committee reported that they had a large bundle of paper put into their hands by the Governor concerning election frauds, &c., but they had not opened them. They had also concluded not to examine the persons ejected at the May election, and holding seats by the authority of the Governor's certificates, as they had determined before they came here how to dispose of this matter.— They would therefore recommend that all persons elected at the first election of March 21, in Kansas, whether in the opinion of the Governor they were elected legally or illegally, should be entitled to their seats, and that all those elected at the second election should retire. This report was adopted. And the members holding Free State principles were expelled without trial or examination.

One of them (Mr. Jesse) said as he had not been heard before the committee, he would state to the House that he was clerk of the first election, held in the third representative district. That early on the day of the election, before many of the settlers had come in, a body of armed men from Missouri, numbering about three hundred men, came to the polls, and took violent possession of the ballot box. They drove away the officers appointed by the Governor, and put in some of their own number.

They then proceeded to vote in a pro-Slavery delegation from the District. The people repudiated it, and the Governor set the election aside as illegal and ordered a new one. The result was that at the next election the Free-Soil ticket was elected by an overpowering majority. And he had no doubt but that three-fourths of the votes in Kansas were for making it a Free State.

Singular Slave Case in Philadelphia.

From The Philadelphia Bulletin, July 19.

Much excitement was caused at Walnut St. Wharf, yesterday afternoon, by the liberation of a slave family. It seems that a gentleman from Virginia, who is on his way north for the purpose of embarking to Central America, was on board the steamboat Washington, with a female slave and her two sons. Just before the starting of the line for New York, one of the abolitionists got wind of the affair, and a colored man accosted the party, who were on the upper deck, and inquired of the woman if she was aware that, by the laws of Pennsylvania, she had only to step ashore with her children and they would be free.— At this juncture the master stepped forward and told the negro that he desired no interference with his business, and that the woman knew where she was going. The colored man replied that he did not desire to interfere with him, but that he wished to inform the woman of her rights.

The mother stated that she did not know who she was free, and expressed a desire to be at liberty. The Virginian then said that she could do as she pleased; if she wished to leave him she could go ashore. He then reminded her of her three children in Virginia, and asked her if she wished to be separated from them. "No, Massa," was the reply, "but I wants to be free." The slaves were then seized by the negroes present and hurried ashore. This proceeding was, however, not accomplished without a scuffle. The Virginian seized the colored man who had first accosted the woman, and also collared a well-known citizen and prominent abolitionist who had taken an active part in the matter. The latter threw off the slaveowner, who demanded of him whether he would be responsible for these people. The Philadelphian replied "I will be responsible for every shadow of legal claim you have upon them," and handed him his card.

During the scuffle the officer of the boat, who seemed puzzled to understand the proceedings, interfered to prevent disorder. The Virginian went on shore and made an effort

to obtain the assistance of the police. The latter declined to interfere. The woman and her two children were finally hurried up Dock-st. and put into a cab amid the cheers of the crowd. The vehicle was driven rapidly down town, and the discomfited owner was left to digest his mortification the best way he could. The Virginian stated that he was Minister to one of the Central American Governments.

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THE WEATHER.—HARVEST, ETC.—For twelve consecutive days it has fogged, showered, mizzled or drizzled, either one or all, every day. Many tons of hay have rotted in the heap and in the swath. Wheat has suffered considerably from growth, even as it stands uncut in the field. To what extent it is damaged we cannot tell; but that this species of damage is not general we have good authority for believing.

Corn is doing finely. The warm, moist weather of the two weeks has forwarded it beyond the reach of timely frost. Potatoes never looked better—exhibiting the old sign of health in all its fulness, viz: an abundance of blossoms and bolls.

The prospects for fair weather are increasing. The air is a trifle cooler than the fro-dreaded breath of a blast furnace, and the sun has shone on the rocking earth for six consecutive hours!

A few Words about Facts and Slavery.

"Facts are stubborn things." The mere existence of a fact, is not the fulness of its mission. To be rendered most effective, facts must be arraigned at the tribunal of Reason. And they must be presented with an eye to the effect of light and shade. A fact, in effectiveness, may lose half its virtue by an awkward or unskillful presentation. The mission of Facts seems to be the evolution of thought by contact with the speculative faculties. It may be an object, then, to bring each fact into service in such a manner as may best develop its thought-evolving power.

We confess to a good share of admiration for, as well as faith in facts. Verily, they are "stubborn things," and we have pursued, "Facts bearing upon Slavery," in the Balance, with considerable satisfaction; albeit, we can by no means subscribe to the closing remarks of the writer; but this does not affect the facts.

In return, we propose presenting certain facts bearing upon Slavery, interspersed with such comments as may be thought pertinent; for we not only feel it a privilege, but a duty, to comment upon any and all facts connected with the living issues of the day—presuming that every intelligent man and woman reserves the right of private judgment in all things, also.

1. It is a fact, that prior to the Revolutionary War, the fathers of the Republic became convinced that Slavery, then in its infancy and much less hideous than it now is, was incompatible with the enjoyment of those rights with which a just Being has endowed every one of his intelligent creatures. So they cast about to get rid of the evil. Their petitions were disregarded.

2. It is a fact, that to-day, after enjoying comparative independence for nearly a hundred years, 350,000 of their children hold in bondage, spiritual as well as physical, a bondage worse than death—4,000,000 of their fellow men; claiming the right to buy and sell them, in the market places like cattle; to compel their labor without adequate recompense; and to prostitute the females at will, and to degrade them to the condition of the brute. These masters have made laws which render the attempt by any white person to teach the slave to read and write, a penal offence. Contrast these facts.

Again—it is a fact that the men of the Revolution made a Declaration of Rights, called The Declaration of Independence; declaring that all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

It is a fact that 350,000 of their children, professing great veneration for the Declaration of Rights, have destroyed the liberties of 4,000,000 of their fellow men, and deny that all men are endowed by God with the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—how throwing the lie in the teeth of the fathers of this Republic, and spitting upon the sacred instrument they pretend to venerate. And it is a humiliating fact that a junta of demagogues, pretending to be the apostles of democracy, seek to-day, to plant and perpetuate Human Slavery on soil first by God dedicated to Freedom, and secondly so acknowledged by human enactments. Contrast these facts. What harmony!

Again—it is a fact that Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, inserted clauses concerning slavery as a flagrant wrong, and abolishing it in the colonies. These clauses were struck out; and

It is a fact that Jefferson is lauded as the apostle of Democracy by those men who have ever done, and are still doing their utmost to perpetuate Human Slavery, speaking of which, Jefferson once said—"I tremble for my country when I think that God is just!"—first assaying to destroy the right of discussion and of petition, and liberty of the Press; by mob and gag-law measures, and by constituting every freeman in the land a hunter of men and women, without discretionary power, under the penalty of fine and imprisonment; and then vandal-like, destroying the ancient landmarks of Freedom and exposing her fairest fields to the blight