

Legislative bodies enact laws which declare that slaveholding is such an enormous crime, that if a Southern man, under the shield of the Constitution, and with the decisions of the Supreme Court of this country in his hands, shall come within their jurisdiction, and set up a fine of \$500 and fifteen years' imprisonment. This school of argument has continued until millions of honest people in this and other lands believe that slaveholding is the sin of sins, the sum of all villanies, let me illustrate this by an incident in my own experience. A few years I took from the center table of a Christian family in Scotland, by whom I had been most kindly entertained, a book entitled "Life and Manners in America." On the blank leaf was an inscription that the book had been bestowed upon one of the children of the family as a reward of diligence in an institution of learning. The frontispiece was a picture of a man of fierce countenance beating a naked woman. The contents of the book were professedly compiled from the testimony of American authors upon the subject of slavery. I dare not quote in this place the extracts which I made from the book, but they were sufficient to show that the book asserts as undoubted facts, that the banks of the Mississippi are streched with iron galleys for the punishment of slaves—that in the city of Charleston the bloody block on which masters cut off the hands of disobedient servants may be seen in the public squares, and that sins against chastity are common and unrebuked in professedly Christian families.

Now in my heart I did not feel angry at the author of that book, nor at the school teacher who bestowed it upon his scholar, for in Christian charity I gave them charity for honesty in the case, but standing there a stranger among the martyr memories of that glorious land to which my heart had so often made its pilgrimages, I did feel that you and I, and every man in America, were wronged by the authors of that book, and I, and every man in America, were wronged by the authors of that book, and I, and every man in America, were wronged by the authors of that book, and I, and every man in America, were wronged by the authors of that book.

King James's version of the Bible. The King James's version of the Bible, the King James's version of the Bible, the King James's version of the Bible. The King James's version of the Bible, the King James's version of the Bible, the King James's version of the Bible.

South is the source of such the love, the constitution and Union of these States with which the religious element has entered into and seeks to control our party politics. But we devote ourselves to what we suppose to be our present duty as of both so recent as 1836. As the question now before the country rises in their minds about all party interests and ought at once to blot out all party lines, so their origin is found back of all party organizations, as they now exist. An article published twenty years ago in the Princeton Review, contains this remarkable language: "The opinion that slaveholding is itself a crime must operate to produce the division of the States and the division of all ecclesiastical societies in the country. Just so far as this opinion operates it will lead those who entertain it to submit to any sacrifices to carry it out and give it effect. We shall become two nations in feeling, which must soon render us two nations in fact. These words are wonderfully prophetic, and they who read the signs of the times must see that the period of their fulfillment draws near. In regard to ecclesiastical societies the division foretold is already in a great measure accomplished. Three of our great religious denominations are rent in twain by the simple question of slaveholding a sin?" It yet remains to be seen whether the American Tract Society and the American Board of Foreign Missions will be revolutionized and dismembered by a contest which, we are told, is to be annually renewed. In regard to the Union of these States there is not much reason for the sanguine hopes which are entertained. It will be some time before the sacredness of the Union shall blot out some of the stars in our ensign, and make us two nations in fact. And what has brought us to the verge of this precipice? What evil spirit has put enmity between the seed of those whom God by His blessing on the wisdom and sacrifice of our fathers made one flesh? What has created and fostered this alienation between the North and the South until dissolution—that used to be whispered in the corners—stalks forth in open daylight and is recognized as a necessity by millions of thinking men in all sections of the land? I believe before God, that this division of feeling, of which actual division will be but the expression and embodiment, was begotten of abolitionism. It has been worked in its embryo and it has its poisoned quill, and instructed by its ministers, until guided with a steady hand, it is taking hold upon the pillars of the constitution and shattering the noble fabric to its base. There was a time when the constitutional questions between the North and South—the conflict of material interests growing out of their difference in soil and production, were discussed in the spirit of statesmanship and Christian courtesy. Then such men as Daniel Webster on one side, and Calhoun on the other, stood up face to face, and defended the rights of their respective constituency in words which will be quoted as long as the English tongue shall endure, as a model of eloquence and a pattern of manly debate. But abolitionism began to creep in. It came first as a purely moral question, but very soon its doctrines were embraced by a sufficient number to hold the balance of power between contending parties in many districts and States. Aspirants for the Presidency seized upon it as a weapon for gratifying their ambition or avenging their disappointments. Under the shadow of their platforms, sincere abolitionists became more and more unscrupulous in advocating their principles. The unlawful and wicked business of enticing slaves from their masters was pushed forward with increased zeal. Men who in the better days of the republic could not have obtained the smallest office, were elected to Congress upon this single issue; and ministers of the Gospel descended from the pulpit, to mingle religious animosity with the boiling cauldron of political strife. Nor was this process confined to one side in the contest. Abuse always provokes recrimination. So long as human nature is passionate, hard words will be responded to by hard blows. And now behold the result? In the halls where Webster and Calhoun, Adams and McDuffie rendered the very name of American statesmanship illustrious, and revived the memory of elastic eloquence, we have heard the outpouring of both Northern and Southern vituperation from men whose names are in this sacred place; and in the land where such slaveholders as Washington and Madison united with Hamilton and Hancock in cementing the Union which they fondly hoped would be perpetual, commerce and manufactures, and all our great industrial and governmental interests, are trembling on the verge of dissolution; and as abolitionism is the great mischief-maker between the North and South; so it is the great stumbling block in the way of a peaceful settlement of our difficulties. Its voice is still for war. The spirit of conciliation and compromise it utterly abhors, and mingling a horrid mirth with its madness, puts into the hands of the advocates of secession the very fans with which to blow the embers of strife into a flame. One man threw a torch into the great temple of the Epheusians and kindled a conflagration which consumed the vast and brave men could not extinguish. One man fiddled and sang, and made his countrymen laugh at the burning of Rome—and the Abolition preacher "feels good" and overflows with merriment when he sees our merchants and laboring men running after their chests and the bread of their families, as if all creation were after them; and snuffs on the Southern breeze the scent of servile and civil war. Oh, shame that it should come to this; and the name of our holy religion be so blasphemed! Let us hope in Christian charity that such men do not comprehend the dangers that stares them in the face. Indeed, who of us fully comprehend it? In the eloquent words of Daniel Webster, "While the Union lasts we have high, exciting and gratifying prospects spread out before us, for us and our children. Beyond that I seek not to penetrate the veil.—God grant that in my day, at least, that curtain may not rise."

We have devoted the greater portion of the paper in giving a discourse delivered at Brooklyn by Rev. Henry J. Van Dusen, for which we ask a careful reading. As the wide difference with which people view the institution of slavery, in different sections, and the intemperate promulgation of these views has already produced a severance of the States, to result, if not speedily settled, in a long bloody war, and the loss of our liberty; it well becomes us to examine the question of candor, and divest ourselves, as much as possible, of all prejudice and preconceived opinions. The steamship Star of the West, which was despatched to Charleston with reinforcements for Major Anderson, has not been heard from, and some anxiety is felt, as threats were made that any vessel bringing succor to the troops in the fortress would be sunk by the insurgent guns from Morris Island. There were rumors in Washington, Thursday, that she had been attacked in the neighborhood of Charleston, and that the city had been cannonaded by Major Anderson, but little credence, however was given to the report. ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATOR.—EDGAR A. COWAN, of Westmoreland County, was elected U. S. Senator, by the Legislature, on Tuesday last, in place of Mr. Bigler. The fact that Mr. Cowan is an old Clay Whig, and eminently conservative, taken with the small vote given for Wilmot, tells well for Pennsylvania. He was elected by a strict party vote. FAT CATTLE.—F. H. ARNOLD, of Port Allegany, killed a pair of steers, recently, but two years old; that weighed 1799 pounds, and were worth, at the market price, \$100.00. They were short-horned Durham. CONGRESS—Failure to do Anything. LET THE PEOPLE ACT. Congress has not yet done anything to calm agitation, to tranquilize the public mind, and to adjust the matters in controversy between the North and the South. It is, unfortunately, but too probable that Congress will do nothing further these great evils. The Committees of the two Houses have held various meetings, and entertained and discussed various plans of compromise and adjustment. Chief among these are the plans of Mr. CANTRELL, Judge DOUGLAS, Mr. RICE, Mr. RYAN and Mr. GRIMES. They have canvassed and they have voted on all, one after another—but they have agreed on none. To the credit of the members, decorum, dignity, and good temper have characterized their consultations and discussions. The Black Republican members have obstinately refused to come up to the requirements of the exigency. They hazard revolution and a bloody war, by wilfully refusing to meet the crisis in a conciliatory, liberal and statesmanlike spirit. Meanwhile other instrumentalities are being invoked. The members of the two Houses from the border States, slave and free, met in Washington to consider the crisis on Friday evening last. They remained in conference some time and adjourned over to another day. There is still another movement on foot, says "Iron," the intelligent correspondent of the Baltimore Sun. The circular, prepared by Mr. Breckinridge and addressed to the border slaveholding States, recommending a Convention of these States to be held at Baltimore on the 15th of February for the purpose of considering the duties and interests of these States in relation to the political crisis, finds much favor. It has been already signed by many Representatives and Senators from the border States. "The movement is looked to as one that affords a possible chance—the best chance that is afforded in any quarter—for an adjustment of the pending difficulties between the North and the South, or for the peaceful establishment of new confederacies." We begin to despair of any help from the politicians now assembled at Washington. Besides being identified with many of the matters in difference, they have distrust and ill-will towards each other, and suspect every plan to be a trap set to catch them. Mr. Lincoln, who could, if he chose, accomplish much good, maintaining what he friends regard a masterly reserve and inactivity, and refuses to do anything openly. Under these circumstances, our only hope is in the people—the masses of the north. If they will throw their leaders overboard, declare war upon the politicians, hold mass meetings, shut out the demagogues from their consultations, and speak and act for themselves, then some good may be arrived at. In such meetings the resolutions and the proceedings are almost invariably managed by tricksters, who stifle the real feelings of the people. Should the masses of the North act, as we hope they will, they ought by all means to emancipate themselves from the influence of the selfish leaders and pot-house politicians. On inquiry at the proper quarter, it has been ascertained that before June last, it being found that the arms at the several arsenals were not proportionately distributed, and that the Southern arsenals were quite deficient in those supplies, a distribution was made for equalization only, and for no other object. They were principally drawn from the Springfield armory and the arsenals at Watervliet, N. Y., and Watertown, Mass. The secession troubles, it is known, had not then commenced. After the distribution was completed, there remained a preponderance of arms at the North. Lt. Gen. Scott was engaged till 4 o'clock this morning on business connected with his department. The Republicans were again in caucus today, their object being to agree on uniform legislative action. NORFOLK, Friday, Jan. 4. Yesterday great excitement prevailed here in consequence of the report that four companies of soldiers at Fortress Monroe had been ordered to Charleston. Lieut. J. H. Nurse has sent in his resignation. The "Brooklyn" is coaling and getting ready for a cruise. It is rumored that her destination is Charleston. MONTE, Friday, Jan. 4. The United States Arsenal was taken at day light this morning by the troops of this city. It contained six stands of arms, 1,500 barrels of powder, 300,000 rounds of musket cartridges, and other munitions of war. There was no defence. It is rumored that Fort Morgan was taken last night.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5. It is understood that prominent members of the diplomatic corps have addressed the government in reference to the commercial interests of their respective countries, in view of the present political troubles, and what degree of protection may be expected, or something to this effect. The government, however, has not yet replied. Returns are daily received at the proper office from South Carolina postmasters, showing that business has progressed as heretofore, including the honoring of contractors' orders for pay and purchase of postage stamps. Sailors were fired here to-day in honor of the Battle of New Orleans. Oil at Cuba—has been found at Cuba, and in such quantities, and of such a quality, as to warrant the opinion that the supply is inexhaustible. The quality is superior to any yet discovered. The well is less than forty feet deep, and yet the supply is equal to ten barrels per day. Our fellow citizen S. W. Bradley, is the lucky owner of a third of this enterprise, and we are glad of it. We wish he may realize a million dollars profit from it. We know of no man we would sooner see "rolling in wealth" than S. W. Bradley. —Olean Advertiser. January will be an important month for secession conventions. The States which are expected to follow the lead of South Carolina will hold their conventions on the following days: Florida, Jan. 3; Alabama, Jan. 7th; Georgia, Jan. 9th; Louisiana, Jan. 23rd; Texas, Jan. 28th. STOVES! STOVES!! Combination Brick Oven Cooking Stoves! (THE LATEST INVENTION OF THE AGE.) J. NOURSE respectfully calls the attention of those wishing new Cooking Stoves to the Fire Brick Elevated Oven Cooking Stove, which took the first premium at the Erie County Fair, as well as at numerous State and County Fairs throughout the United States. They are the most Durable Stoves Constructed! And the only one that is equal to the old-fashioned Brick Ovens, for Baking, WARRANTED TEN YEARS! These Stoves will be sold at greatly reduced prices. I am supplied with all kinds of COOKING, PARLOR & BOX STOVES! Together with a full assortment of TIN-WARE, Sheet Iron & Copper Ware, &c. Job Work, of all kinds done with dispatch, and in a satisfactory manner, at the lowest possible prices. Old Copper, Rags, Brass, Lead, Pewter, Oils, and in fact everything you have will be taken in exchange for goods—even to Cash. Give me a call, at the old stand, ONE DOOR WEST OF THE ASTOR HOUSE. Smethport, Jan. 10, 1861. AGENTS WANTED. A Book that every Farmer, Mechanic, and Business Man Wants. JUST PUBLISHED. THE Township and Local Laws OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. Compiled from the Acts of Assembly by WM. T. HAINES Esq., and published by EDWARD F. JAMES, West Chester, Pa. This work contains over 400 pages of closely printed matter, and will be sold by subscription. It includes the duties of Justices of the Peace, with forms for the transaction of their business. It touches the duties of Constables with all the necessary forms appertaining to the office. It contains the duties of the Supervisors of every County and Township in the State. It details the mode of procedure for the laying out and opening of public and private roads of traveling and altering roads, the building of bridges, &c. &c. It details the Common School Law, with explanations of the various provisions, together with forms for Deeds, Bonds, Contracts, Certificates, &c. &c. This department of the work was compiled at Harrisburg by Mr. Samuel P. Bates, Public Superintendent, and it alone worth the price of the volume to any one interested in Common Schools. It contains the duties of Township Auditors. It contains the laws relative to Hogs and Sheep. It contains the duties of Assessors. It contains the laws in relation to strays, Mules and Swine. It contains the laws relative to Fences and Fence Viewers. It contains the laws relative to Game Hunting, Trout and Deer. It contains the Election Laws with all the necessary Forms. It contains the Naturalization Laws, with all the necessary Forms for Application. It contains a large number of Legal Forms which are used in the every day transaction of business, such as Acknowledgments, Affidavits, Articles of Agreement and Contracts, Partnerships, Appointments, Assignments, Attachments, Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes, Bills of Sale, Bonds, Chancery Orders, Deeds, Depositions, Duces Tecum and Process Notes, Landlord and Tenant, Leases, Letters of Attorney, Mortgages, Receivings and Returns. The work is bound in law sheep and will be sold to subscribers at \$1.25 per copy, payable on delivery of the work. The work has passed the revision of many of the best lawyers in the State and has received their unqualified approbation, as a reliable hand book of reference upon all subjects upon which it treats. The whole is arranged in such a manner as to present a plain, concise and explicit statement of the duties of all Township Officers, as may be readily understood by any one. KEELY and GAMMON Consulting Engineers, though engaged for the work, and the citizens are respectfully solicited. GEORGE R. ALLEN, General agent for McKean & Cameron Counties. P. S. Genl. canvassers are wanted in all parts of this County for the above work, to whom a liberal compensation will be given. Application which must be made at an early date, addressed to the General Agent, as above will receive prompt attention. LIST OF LETTERS REMAINING in the Post-Office at Smethport, at the close of quarter ending Dec. 31st: Starkweather, E. Oshes, James Manly, Roda Martin, David Kline, H. M. Sadler, Harrison T. C. M. Cutler, Wm. Bickly, Charlotte M. Barron, J. W. Rodgers, H. Gold, John, N. F. S. SARTWELL, P. M. NOTICE—All persons are hereby notified that I will not be responsible for any grain brought to the mill at Smethport, unless the bags containing it have the owner's name legibly marked. BESTER CORWIN. Smethport, Pa., Jan. 3, 1861. KEROSENE OIL. MADE FROM COAL, WITH LAMPS TO burn the same, at WILCOX & EATON'S, Olean, N. Y.