

II. But then it is alleged that "if the representation is altered, the poll tax on Slaves might be made oppressive." This has been urged in every form that promised to excite the fears and arouse the jealousy of the slave owners of the State. I confess that (before I had resolved to take nothing upon trust in this investigation) I always supposed that this objection had enough in it to awaken the vigilance of the slave owner, to provide against the possibility of such oppression. I still think it should be guarded against, but permit me to tell you that the danger exists now, and that the proposal to reform the Constitution is in truth a proposition to secure us against its recurrence. I know it will startle many who read this assertion, but it is most true that the counties whose interest it is to confine the poll tax to slaves have now a majority in the Assembly—but if the Constitution is altered in the manner that has been proposed, the principal slave holding counties will elect this majority! The truth is, that slaves are property, and property generally follows population. Here is proof of it to any fair mind! The slave population of North-Carolina is 246,000. Of these slaves 93,000! ONLY—are owned by the 33 counties which contain one third of the white population, and pay one third of the taxes and elect a majority of the Assembly. Yet the other 31 counties who pay two thirds of the taxes, and contains two thirds of the white population, own also nearly two thirds of the slaves, viz. 153,000. The 43 counties which do not pay their expenses to the Government, elect two thirds of the Assembly, and do not own one half of the slaves. The 21 counties of the State which only pay their own expenses in taxes (as before shown) do own more than half of the slaves, viz. 127,000. Now, what is there to protect these 21 counties, from an "oppressive tax" on slaves? I answer with confidence, that there is no other perfect protection but that which is offered us in a Reform of the Constitution, viz: 1st. By an article of the amended Constitution to prohibit inequality of white and black poll taxes.—2d. By the new system of representation, the principal slave owning counties will be transferred from a minority to a majority. There is, it seems to me, some infatuation about this subject. A proposition is made to reform the Constitution in such way as to give the Government into the hands of a majority of the People—but many of these counties whose people are most deeply concerned to advance it, are prevailed on to withhold their consent. It is demanded to reform the Constitution, so as to equalize taxes and to diminish the public expenses, and yet many of the tax paying counties refuse to co-operate. It is asked to reform it, so as to take the principal slave owning counties out of the power of those whose interest it is to impose "unequal and oppressive slave taxes," yet those slave owners decline to give their assent, and even pretend to justify resistance upon the mistaken belief that a change of the Constitution will endanger their peculiar rights. An honest search after truth must satisfy the mind of the most incredulous among us that all these things are true.

III. But then it is alleged, that our Constitution is "the work of our fathers and we owe it too much veneration to justify us in altering it." This has furnished a theme for declamation, I believe, to every variety of Orator who has lifted his voice against Reform. But the freemen of this State are not children, to be satisfied with mere speciousness. I have shewn under what circumstances our fathers established the present Constitution, and with what alacrity they availed themselves of the first opportunity after peace to urge its amendment and to vote for it. I remind you that no one is seeking to destroy the fundamental principles which our fathers established, but rather to make our State government conform to them. I need not tell you how urgently and yet vainly this doctrine was pressed on our fathers, when they had set about reforming the work of their fathers—that our fathers dared even the dangers of Revolution and Civil war to place their liberty and the rights of the people on a firmer basis than that upon which their fathers had vested it. I might go on to prove that the American people in the other States are not less bound to venerate their fathers, nor have they been less sensible of the obligation than we are, whilst no such vain pretext has been available to prevent them from changing their old Constitutions, which were reformed about the period of the Revolution. I might go further, and remind such devotees that to venerate the principles of our fathers is to show them real homage. To respect the Rights of all alike—to do justice to all sections and to establish equality—bury party feuds, and to unite as one family, would be more grateful offerings to the "manes" of departed patriots than that disingenuous array of their honored names to prop a cause which has no solid ground to sustain it. But if I must bring it to that test, then let us see whether this feeling in memory of the men of other days, has cast a hallowed sanctity about other subjects. It is written in this Constitution—this "Legacy of our fathers," "41. That a school or schools shall be established by the Legislature, for the convenient instruction of youth, with such salaries to the masters, to be paid by the public, as may enable them to instruct

at low prices; and all useful learning shall be duly encouraged and promoted in one or more Universities."

Now, I ask, when the only University in the State was threatened with Bankruptcy on account of delay in the receipt of their funds, did not the General Assembly refuse to make them a loan—a well secured loan, unless the Trustees of that Institution would first consent to give up the College that had been reared by private bounty to their caprice? I ask, if after a Legislature of our fathers in 1789 had vested in a University all Escheats, their sons in a Legislature of 1800 did not attempt to repeal the donation; and if the Trustees of that Institution did not find it necessary to resort to the Courts for protection? Where was then this boasted veneration for our fathers? Can you vouch for finding the brethren of the East united in opposing these attempts to do dishonor to our fathers? I am afraid not! This "venerated charter" has now existed more than half a century, and I solemnly enquire what has been done towards the establishment of schools by the Legislature, &c. with salaries, &c. paid by the public, &c. Let no man's party call on me to venerate with such blind homage this work of our fathers unless they can show that they have done obedience to this command of the departed. Have any steps been taken towards the establishment of schools? Not one until 1825. And though the 'Literary Fund, has increased to near one hundred thousand dollars, the very body of men who profess to regulate themselves on the question of reform by a respect to the memory of our fathers, failed to invest that fund in order that it might accumulate—because it was needed to pay their wages! This pretence, therefore, is worse than idle. Shall men, free men too, be told in this country, and in this century, that their rights are denied them and justice is withheld because it was done by our fathers? You shall be oppressed forever, because you have been oppressed for 20 years? I appeal to your candour to answer, is this a reason or is it not pretext? Shall we despise the principles of our fathers, and only venerate their errors? Shall we perpetrate injustice even against their example, and yet profess to act in veneration of their memory? "Acta exteriora indicant interiora secreta." I do not wish to exasperate excitements which already exist on this subject. But it should never be offensive to hear the truth, and when it is, we may be sure that there is some error to be corrected in our conduct. When I speak of the Legislature and of the parties in it, I am to be understood to speak of them not individually, but as a body of delegates representing a people excited by party spirit. Much allowance is to be made likewise, for the indiscretion of some of our Western brethren, who have hastily introduced the demands for reform as demands of 'the West,' and very naturally it excites this party opposition. Flint and steel apt to produce fire, when they are brought into contact by edges. I am sorry that I have been obliged to allude to these parties at all. I know I shall be acquitted by fair men from the imputation of a wrong motive, if they will but remember that I could not answer objections based on 'party' grounds, without taking the course I have pursued; and I could not redeem my pledge to investigate this subject, and yet pass the objections by in silence.

SENEX.

Prince Murat, in his sketch of the United States, gives the following account of slavery in the Southern States: "In all countries and at all times, a great majority of mankind is condemned to subsist by labor and I have not the least doubt that this portion of society is much more happy and more useful in a state of slavery than any other. Compare the lot of our negroes, well clothed, well fed, with no care for the morrow and no anxiety for their family, compare them, I say—not with the degraded race of free negroes and mulattoes, having the whole weight of liberty without a single one of its advantages but—with the whole laborers of Europe, working twice or thrice as much, and constantly on the verge of starvation, both them and their families. I have no hesitation in saying that our negroes are not only much happier than the operatives of the English manufacturing towns, but even of the peasantry generally throughout Europe."

Hydrophobia.—Several cases of Hydrophobia have recently been mentioned in the newspapers. Elicited by them the following cure is published in the Boston Morning Post; of what efficacy it is to be considered, remains to be seen:

"The inhabitants of Gadici have made the important discovery, that near the ligament of a man or beast bitten by a rabid animal, and becoming rabid, pustules of a whitish color make their appearance, which open spontaneously about the 13th day after the bite; and at this time, they say, the first symptoms of true hydrophobia make their appearance. Their method of cure consists in opening these pustules, and making the patient spit out the ichor and fluid which run from them, often washing the mouth with salt and water. This operation should be performed the 9th day after the bite. The remedy is so effectual, that with these people this hitherto incurable disease has lost its terrors."

From the Boston Atlas, 27th ult.

EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY OF A PICK-POCKET.—Among the dense mass that assembled around the Tremont House to see General Jackson when he alighted from his Barouche, was one of our merchants who had a wallet in his pantaloons pocket, containing nearly \$300. He was standing on the side walk, where it was no easy matter to obtain a foothold against the heavy pressure which bore upon him, and as he was about to be forcibly ejected from his position, he found himself encircled in the arms of his next neighbor, who held him firmly for the space of about a minute, apparently to keep him in his place. He thought nothing of the circumstance until having satisfied his curiosity about Gen. Jackson, he had almost reached his home, when putting his hand in his pocket, he discovered that his money had been abstracted. In what manner it had been abstracted and by whom, he had not a doubt, but his recollection of the features and person of the individual was so slight that he felt quite satisfied that the chance of its recovery was hopeless.—Between 8 and 9 o'clock that evening, a stranger knocked at the door of the Post-Office and asked one of the clerks to give him a wafer. Immediately thereafter a letter was dropped into the box from the outside. When the clerk took the letters from the box to mail them, which he did soon after, he noticed that one had bursted its seal, and upon further examination, found that it was hardly folded and without containing something of an enclosure. The Postmaster being at hand, was informed of the circumstance, and as he is empowered by law to examine any letter that may exhibit suspicious appearances, he decided to make an examination of the one in question. Upon opening it, the enclosure was found to consist of about \$200 in various notes, crushed together by the hand and very hastily put into the letter. The letter, it appeared, was written by one Hanson to his wife in Philadelphia, told her he was well and that he had sent her some money. The Postmaster naturally surmised that all was not as it should be, and directed that the letter should be detained for a few days.

On the following afternoon an advertisement appeared in one of the city papers announcing the loss of a wallet containing about \$300, and describing the bills. The Postmaster as he cast his eye over the advertisement at once recollected that the bills as described corresponded with those enclosed in the suspicious letter. He promptly gave information of this fact to the Attorney General, the County Attorney and the Judge of the Municipal Court, and then left it to them to determine what subsequent measures it was advisable to take in the premises. They thereupon wrote to Mr. Blaney, one of the High Constables of the city of Philadelphia, made known all the particulars of the affair here and requested him to take Mr. Hanson into his safe custody so soon as he might shew himself in that place. A sharp lookout was accordingly kept by Mr. Blaney, and yesterday advice was received from him stating that Mr. H. was in prison and ready to obey any demand that might be made for him by the Executive of Massachusetts.

A bill of indictment was found by the Grand Jury against the accused, at their last session, and he will doubtless, be conveyed here for trial, at the next term of the Municipal Court. The money has been fully identified by the merchant from whom it was stolen, and there cannot be the shadow of a doubt, from the facts in the case, that Hanson will be convicted of the robbery and be sentenced to take up his residence in the State Prison at Charlestown, for a period of three or more years.

Sailors.—No race of beings so decidedly differs from every other in the world as sailors—no matter whether they belong to a king's ship, to a smuggler, or a merchantman. Though there may be shades among them, yet from the grand distinction between men of the sea and men of the land, it is impossible to confound them together. A seaman is ever so easily amused, so reckless of consequences, so cheerful amid difficulties, so patient under privations. His blue jacket is a symbol of enterprise and good humor. Even his nondescript hat—black, small and shining as a jappaned button, adhering to his head by a kind of supernatural agency, with which landsmen are unacquainted—can never be seen by a true born Englishman without feelings of gratitude and affection, which, at all events, no other hat in the world can command.—Mrs. Hall's Bucc.

Good Advice.—It is better to tread the path of life cheerfully, skipping lightly over the thorns and briars that obstruct your way, than to sit down under every hedge, lamenting your hard fate. The thread of a cheerful man's life spins out much longer than that of a man who is continually sad and desponding. Prudent conduct in the concerns of life is highly necessary—but if distress succeeds, dejection and despair will not afford relief. The best thing to be done when evil comes upon us, is not lamentation but action: not to sit and suffer but to rise and seek the remedy.

A new loan.—A Smithfield drover, who found much trouble with his flock, applied to his comrade—"Dang it, mon, these sheep wont drive onwise! do lend us a bark of your dog, will ye?"

From the Lynchburg Virginian.

A Murder foul! most foul and horrid! A Brother's hand imbrued in the blood of a Brother!—A friend in Pittsylvania furnishes us with the following narrative of a murder perpetrated in that country:

"We have read in Shakspeare of a second Daniel, but it was reserved for the present era of Murders to be presented with a second Cain, in the person of ARMISTEAD CRAFT, of the county of Pittsylvania, who, on the 10th instant, committed a most wanton and diabolical murder on the person of his brother, George Craft, jr, at the house of his father, Philip Craft—and then immediately fled. His father, being suspected of aiding his escape, contrary to the act of Assembly, and thereby becoming an accessory after the fact, was arrested on the 13th instant, and, on the 15th was brought before S. Coleman, D. H. Clark, V. Dickenson, W. D. Pannill, and L. Dillard, Esqrs. justices of the Peace, who, after a patient and impartial examination of a number of witnesses, pronounced that the testimony would not bear them out in pronouncing the prisoner guilty, and he was therefore discharged. A synopsis of the testimony may not prove uninteresting, viz: That passing by the house, heard considerable noise—had curiosity to ascertain the cause—turned in direction of the house—saw Armistead Craft running at full speed across the field—reached the house, and understood from the father that Armistead had killed his brother George. The father sent for his neighbors, a number of whom soon assembled—to whom he stated, that, on that morning Armistead arose and fed his horse, rode out, returned to breakfast, and fed his horse again. The family, composed of the father and two sons, sat down to breakfast—when George remarked to Armistead that it was unnecessary to feed his horse so often, when corn was scarce, for which rebuke he received a slap on the mouth—George, being a mild, orderly, well disposed member of the Baptist Church, requested his brother not to repeat it—which he did, by inflicting a severe blow with his clenched hand. A rencounter ensued, which resulted in George's throwing Armistead on the bed. The father taking him away, Armistead took advantage of this circumstance, seized George, and threw him on the floor—when the father again interposed, and separated them—ran Armistead (the eldest of the two) into a corner—hearing something fall behind him, exclaimed, Sir, you have killed your brother—raised him up—when the fatal duck fell from the bosom of the expiring boy, having entered between two ribs, and penetrated deeply into the heart. Armistead asked his father's forgiveness, who ordered him from his presence. The neighbors sat up with the corpse that night. After midnight, the father came down stairs with his overcoat on, and a bundle in his hand: went to the desk, and took a bag therefrom, containing something weighty—went out, and remained several hours. Whether the bundle contained clothes, and the bag money, and whether the absent time was spent with the refugee, the witnesses could not tell. Mr. Jones the Coroner, held an inquest over the body, when the jury found that the deceased had been feloniously, wilfully, and maliciously murdered, by Armistead Craft."

CADDEN, (N. J.) August 3.

Important Invention.—Yesterday we were highly gratified by a view of the Patent Machine, invented and made in this town by our fellow townsmen, Messrs. Gerhard and Vaneman, for the benefit of the most useful and necessary classes of mechanics—the Cordwainers. It is constructed on a plan which must conduce greatly to the health, comfort, ease, and profit of the operator, who can sit or stand by it, at work, in any position. A person without feet or legs can perform his task with equal facility as those who have these members, hitherto indispensable to that business. And it is alleged, by one who has been for some days using the machine, that nearly, if not twice, as much work can be performed with, as without it, in a given time.

The machine is to be exhibited in the Franklin Institute next week.

The right and the machines will be sold at a price so moderate, that it is believed no Cordwainer will choose to be long without one of them.—Nat. Rep.

Work or no pay.—One sultry afternoon, some ten years since, in that "golden month" which comes between May and July, and in which the congregated wisdom of New Hampshire is assembled at the Capitol to overhaul the laws of the land, a member who had stowed away a quantum suff. of the good things of this world by the way of eating his dinner, stretched himself out upon one of the seats, and was very quietly enjoying his siesta, when one of the sovereign people, who had seated himself in the gallery to overlook his servants, happened to observe the aforesaid sleeper—and without ceremony he bawled out—"Hallo, Mr.—you man that's napping it on the bench there, the State don't pay you two dollars a day for sleeping, I can tell you, so wake up—wake up!" By the time the above speech, which was made in no ordinary tone of voice, was concluded, the House was in a roar, the sleeper arose scared half out of his wits, and the Speaker ordered the galleries cleared.—N. H. Spectator.

"What is the bigot's torch, the tyrant's chain? I smile on death, if Heavenward Hope remain."

However severely some may condemn Hope as an arch deluder, a parasite, a restless and insatiable annoyner of mind, and shower epithets and abuse upon it, yet it nevertheless remains, as in primeval purity the most precious bequest ever bestowed on man. I am far from subscribing to the singular doctrine of a certain reformer of the present day, who declared that "if Hope were struck from existence, mankind would be supremely benefited." On the contrary, I am of the opinion that, were Hope destroyed, mankind would be "supremely" miserable. Hope is the star which cheers us on through the troubled voyage of life. Hope is "the anchor of the soul," sure and steadfast.

"Cease every joy to glimmer on my mind, But leave—oh! leave the light of Hope behind!"

When the christian looks forward to his promised heaven of rest—when he contemplates the solemn joys which await him there, and feels that peace of mind "which nothing earthly gives nor can destroy"—he has "on for a helmet the hope of salvation;" and that Hope will last when the silver cords of life are loosed, and the golden bowl broken at the fountain. Yes, when the funeral pyre of Nature shall be lighted, and the Omnipotent shall stretch forth his mighty arm and roll the heavens together as a scroll, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the Hope of the christian will

"Look beyond the bounds of time, When what we now deplore, Shall rise in full immortal prime, And bloom to fade no more."—Troy Press.

Singular Phenomenon.—A correspondent of the Bulletin gives the following account of an uncommon occurrence which took place in Genesee county, N. Y. on the 20th of June:

Between 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning, there was heard by several of the inhabitants of the town of Java and Seneca, Genesee county, a remarkable roaring resembling that of a "rushing mighty wind," accompanied with a trembling motion of the earth for a considerable extent. It was so considerable, that some removed the glass and earthenware from their shelves, to prevent its breaking. In the morning there was discovered on the farm of Mr. J. Sykes, in the north part of the town of Java, a remarkable breach in the earth, extending from Seneca creek, west, across a small flat of a few rods in extent, upon the side of a hill, the slope of which was about 40 or 45 rods in length. It was 20 rods wide at the end next the creek, 13 at the middle, and 10 at the upper end, where the earth was sunk from 25 to 30 feet, which was raised about 20 feet, above the bottom of the creek at its lower end, making its highest point at the creek nearly as high as the lowest depression at the other extremity. The bed of the creek was raised about 5 feet, and carried about 3 rods beyond its former situation. The ground was thrown in ridges from 2 to 10 feet high. A considerable portion of the surface has entirely disappeared, presenting in its stead several acres of different kinds of earth. Trees, stumps, and logs, were carried 12 or 15 rods. A small grove of timber, some of which was 20 inches through, was carried the above distance, some standing, some broken down, and some turned up by the roots. In some instances, logs and other ponderous substances, that were in contact, were separated 6 or 8 rods, and others, before a distance, were thrown together. There are many conjectures concerning it, but none can satisfactorily account for it.

CHOLERA IN CINCINNATI.

CINCINNATI, July 26.

HEALTH OF THE CITY.—Cases of Cholera have multiplied in our city, within the last week. Several persons of extensive usefulness have fallen its victims, and some cases have occurred, of peculiar family distress. These have given somewhat of an adventitious character to its ravages. Nevertheless, it has assumed, to a certain extent, an epidemic character. From the list of internments published to-day, it will be seen that from Tuesday night, the 15th, to Tuesday night 23d, there were 99 burials. More than half of Cholera. The internments of the corresponding week of 1832 were only 25. The population of the city was then undoubtedly greater than it is now, so that, independent of Cholera, it is evident that there is more prevalent disease than usual. Bilious fever, and diseases incident to children, prevail rather malignant character.—Geo.

If men did but know what felicity dwells in the cottage of a virtuous man—how sound he sleeps, how quiet his breast, how composed his mind, how free from care, how easy his provision, how healthy his morning, how sober his night, how moist his mouth, how joyful his heart—they would never admire the noises, the diseases, the throng of passions, and the violence of unnatural appetites, that fill the houses of the luxurious, and the hearts of the ambitious. Jeremy Taylor.

A letter from New-Orleans of a recent date, states that Dr. John W. Hunt of that city, was killed in a duel at that place on the 28th ult.