

Governors of the several States, the result of the election; and should the Legislature of any State not be in session during the first week in January, the Governor of such State, shall call the Legislature to be in session in that week—and the Legislatures of the respective States throughout the Union, shall determine in the first week in January, (where an election has failed to be made by the people,) from the two candidates for President and Vice President, respectively, having the greatest number of votes, which shall be President, and which shall be Vice President. In this mode of election, each State shall have one vote, and the Members of the Legislature of each State shall give their votes by *ayes* and *noes*, as the names of the candidates are severally put to them; and in the event of a tie of the Legislature, then the candidate who had the greatest number of votes from the people, for President, shall be President; and the candidate having the greatest number of votes from the people, for Vice President, shall be Vice President.

In submitting this plan, your committee beg leave to say something in explanation. The States of the Union differ widely in the qualifications necessary for a voter. In Virginia, the freeholder alone is received; while in North-Carolina, every free citizen of 21 years of age, and has paid a public tax, is permitted to give his suffrage. This difference as to qualifications among the States, has not escaped the notice of your Committee; and although it has cost some trouble and reflection, they hope and believe all difficulty from that source has been removed.

The plan proposed, secures to each State in the Union, her full weight, according to population, let the qualifications necessary to entitle an individual to exercise the right of suffrage be what they may. To prove this, they submit the following proposition:

Suppose, in the election of a President and Vice President, North-Carolina should give 100,000 votes; and that her Senators and Representatives in Congress, united, amount to 15 Divide (according to the plan proposed) 100,000 by 15, and the number obtained is 6,666 and a fraction. A. and B. are candidates for the Presidency. A. gets 62,000 votes, and B. gets 38,000. Now, divide the 62,000 votes given to A. by 6,666, and it will give A. 9 votes and a fraction—and the thirty-eight thousand votes given to B. divided in the same way, will give him 5 votes and a fraction. This rule is certain and unerring—it shows the relative strength of the parties, preserves that of the States, and enables the people to vote directly for the two first officers of the nation.

It might here be asked of your Committee, what is to be done with the fractional parts of votes given to the candidates? They reply, add them up, and divide the aggregate by an arbitrary number, say, 10,000. Is a reason required for this? They answer, an arbitrary number is indispensable, because, when throwing the fractional parts of votes from various States together, all differing in the number of votes they are entitled to in electing a President and Vice President, there must be some certain number fixed upon as a divider, which will as well apply to one State as another.

Your Committee again express the diffidence with which they offer their opinions to the Legislature, and should they be so fortunate as even to present a thought which may hereafter prove beneficial, it will be more than a compensation for the labour they have bestowed upon this subject. Respectfully submitted,

ALFRED MOORE,  
Chairman.

SELECTED FOR THE STAR.

A Passionate Father's Remorse.

[CONTINUED.]

When I awoke up to a sense of what had passed around me, I saw the sweet countenance of my wife bent over me, with an expression of most anxious tenderness. She was wiping away the tears from her eyes, and a faint smile broke into her face as she perceived my returning sense.

I caught hold of her arm with a strong grasp, and lifted up my head; but my eyes looked for the body of my child—it was not there. 'Where is it?' I cried; 'where is the body of my murdered boy?' When I spoke the word 'murdered,' my wife shrieked—I was rushing out—she stopped me and said, 'He is not dead—

he is alive.' My heart melted within me, and tears rained from my eyes. My wife led me to the chamber where they had laid my child. He was alive, if such a state could be called life. Still his eyelids were closed; still his cheeks, even his lips, were of a ghastly whiteness; still his limbs were cold and motionless. They had undressed him, and my mother sat in silent grief beside his bed. When I came near, she uncovered his fair chest, and placed my hand over his heart; I felt a thick and languid beating there, but the pulse of his wrists and temples was scarcely perceptible. My mother spoke to me: 'We have examined the poor child,' she said, 'but we find no wound, no bruise, no marks of violence. Whence is this dreadful stupor? No one can answer me.' 'I can answer you,' I said; 'no one can answer but myself. I am the murderer of the child—in my hellish rage I struck his blessed head.' I did not see the face of my wife or my mother—as I spoke, I hung my head; but I felt my wife's hand drop from me; I heard my mother's low, heart-breaking groan. I looked up and saw my wife—she stood before me like a marble figure, rather than a creature of life, yet her eyes were fixed on me, and her soul seemed to look out in their gaze. 'Oh my husband,' she cried out at length, 'I see plainly in your face what you suffer. Blessed God, have mercy on him! have mercy on him! he suffers more than we all. His punishment is greater than he can bear!' She flung her arms round my neck; she strove to press me nearer to her bosom, but I would have withdrawn myself from her embrace. 'Oh do not shame me thus,' I cried, 'remember, you must remember that you are a mother.' 'I cannot forget that I am a wife, my husband,' she replied, weeping. 'No, no, I feel for you, and I must feel with you in every sorrow. How do I feel with you now, in this overwhelming affliction!' My mother had fallen on her knees when I declared my guilt; my wife drew me towards her; and rising up, she looked me in the face. 'Henry,' she said, in a deep voice, 'I have been praying for you, for us all. My son, look not thus from me.' As she was speaking, the surgeon of my household, who had been absent when I first sent for him, entered the chamber. My kind mother turned from me, and went at once with him to the bed side of the child. I perceived her intention of preventing my encountering the surgeon. She would have concealed, at least for awhile, her son's disgrace; but I felt my horrid guilt too deeply to care about shame. Yet I could not choose but groan within me, to perceive the good man's stare, his retreating shudder, while I described minutely the particulars of my conduct towards my poor boy! I stood beside him as he examined the head of my child. I saw him cut away the rich curls, and he pointed out to me a slight swelling beneath them; but in vain did he strive to recover the lifeless form: his efforts were, as those of my wife and mother, had been, totally without success. For five days I sat by the bed side of my son, who remained, at first, still in that death-like stupor, but gradually a faint life-like animation stole over him; so gradually indeed that he opened not his eyes, until the evening of the fourth day, and even then he knew us not, and noticed nothing. Oh few can imagine what my feelings were! How my first faint hope lived, and died, and lived again, as the beating of his heart became more full and strong; as he first moved the small hand, which I held in mine, and made an effort, a feeble, and at first, fruitless effort to stretch out his limbs. After he had unclosed his eyes, he breathed with the soft and regular respiration of a healthy person; and then slept for many hours. It was about noon on the fifth day, that he awoke from that sleep. The sun had shone so full into the room, that I partly closed the shutters to shade his face. Some rays of sunshine pierced through the crevices of the shutters, and played upon the coverlet of his bed. My child's face was turned towards me, and I watched eagerly for the first gleam of expression there. He looked up, then around him, without turning his head. My heart grew sick within me, as I beheld the smile which played over his face. He perceived the dancing sun-beam, and put his fingers softly into the streak of light, and took them away, and smiled again. I spoke to him, and took his hand in my own; but he had lost all memory of me, and saw nothing in my face to make him smile. He looked down on my trembling hand, and played with my fingers; and when he saw the ring I wore he played with that, while the same idiot smile came back to his vacant countenance. My mother now led me from the room. I no longer refused to go. I felt that it was fit that I should commune with my own heart, and in my chamber, and be still. They judged rightly in leaving me to perfect solitude. The calm of my misery was a change like happiness to me. A deadness of every faculty, of all thought and feeling, fell on me like repose. When Jane came to me I had no thought to perceive her presence. She took my hands tenderly within hers, and sat down beside me on the floor. She lifted up my head from the boards, and supported it on her knees. I believe she spoke to me many times without my replying.

At last I heard her, and rose up at her entreaties. 'You are ill, your hands are burning, my beloved,' she said: 'Go to bed, I beseech you—you need rest.' I did as she told me. She thought I slept that night, but the lids seemed tightened and drawn back from my burning eye-balls. All the next day I lay in the same hot and motionless state; I cannot call it repose. For days I did not rise. I allowed myself to sink under the weight of my despair. I began to give up every idea of exertion.

My mother, one morning, came to my chamber, she sat down by my bed side, and spoke to me. I did not, could not, care to notice her who spoke to me.—My mother rose, and walked round to the other side of the bed, towards which my face was turned. There she stood, and spoke again solemnly. 'Henry,' she said, 'I command you to rise. Dare you to disobey your mother? No more of this unmanly weakness. I must not speak in vain, I have not needed to command before. My son be yourself—Think of all the claims this life has upon you; or rather, think of the first high claim of Heaven, and let that teach you to think of other duties, and to perform them! Search your own heart. Probe it deeply. Shrink not. Know your real situation in all its bearings. Changed as it is, force it like a man; and seek the strength of God to support you. I speak the plain truth to you: your child is an idiot. You must answer to God for your crime. You will be executed by mankind for your hand struck the mind's life from him. These are harsh words, but you can bear them better than your own confused and agonizing thoughts. Rise up and meet your trial.—Tell me simply, that you obey me. I will believe you, for you never yet have broken your word to me.' I replied immediately rising up & saying, 'I do promise to obey you. Within this hour I will meet you, determined to know my duties, and to perform them by the help of God.' Oh! with what a look did my noble mother regard me as I spoke. 'God strengthen you, and bless you,' she said; 'I cannot now trust myself to say more.' Her voice was feeble and trembling now, her lip quivered, and a bright flush opened over her thin pale cheek: she bent down over me and kissed my forehead, and then departed.

Within an hour from the time my mother left me, I went forth from my chamber with a firm step, determined again to enter upon the performances of my long neglected duties. I had descended the last step of the grand staircase, when I heard a laugh in the hall beyond. I knew there was but one who could then laugh so wildly; and too well I knew the sound of the voice, which broke out in the tones of wild merriment ere the laugh ceased. For some moments my resolution forsook me. I caught hold of the balustrade to support my trembling limbs, and repressed with a violent effort the groans I felt bursting from my heart—I recovered myself, and walked into the hall. In the western oriel window, which is opposite the door by which I entered, sat my reverend mother: she lifted up her face from the large volume which lay on her knees, as my step sounded near: she smiled upon me, and looked down again without speaking—I passed on, but stopped again to gaze on those who now met my sight. In the centre of the hall stood my wife, leaning her cheek on her hand. She gazed on her son with a smile, but the tears all the while trickled down her face. Maurice was at her feet, the floor around him strewn over with playthings, the toys of his infancy, which he had for years thrown aside, but had discovered that very morning, and he turned from one to the other as if he saw them for the first time, and looked upon them all as treasures. An expression of rapturous silliness played over the boy's features; but, alas! tho' nothing but a fearful childishness was on his face, all the child like bloom and roundness of that face were gone. The boy now looked indeed older by many years. The smiles of his thin lips seemed to struggle vainly with languor and heaviness, his eyelids were half closed, his cheeks and lips colorless, his whole form wasted away. My wife came to me, and embraced me; but Maurice noticed me not for many minutes. He looked up at me then, and, rising from the ground, walked towards me. I dreaded that my mournful appearance would affright him, and I stood breathless with my fears. He surveyed me from head to foot, and came close to me, and looked up with pleased curiosity in my face, and then whistled as he walked back to his toys, whistled so loudly that the shrill sound seemed to pierce thro' my brain.

(To be continued.)

The best dowry to advance the marriage of a young lady is when she has in her countenance mildness; in her speech wisdom; in her behaviour modesty, and in her life virtue.—Fenton's Epistles.

It is stated as a curious fact, in a Pennsylvania paper, that no less than 8 bachelors live in a one story house, 18 by 22 feet, in Milford county, in perfect harmony.

[From the Philadelphia U. S. Gazette.]  
LIBERIA.  
"If this work be of man, it will come to nought; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it."  
In December, 1821, after various unsuccessful attempts in the preceding years at other points, a territory was purchased from the natives of Cape Mesurado, on the western coast of Africa, by the American Colonization Society. The object of the Society was, to found there a Colony of Free Blacks from the U. States; to provide all such as might wish to emigrate, with an asylum, whither they and their children might go and enjoy real liberty, and all the immunities, privileges and attributes of freemen. The scheme was immediately approved and embraced by a great number of our most distinguished citizens. Under their protection, and sustained by individual charity, the Colony grew apace. More emigrants were found than the society could send.

In its infancy, Liberia, like all similar establishments, had to endure many wants and dangers. She was reduced to the brink of destruction by unusual privations, and by diseases incident to a new settlement and foreign climate. In the moment of her greatest weakness, the natives jealous of her presence, fell upon her in numbers vastly superior to her own. But even then she was too powerful for such enemies. The multitude of the naked savages served only to augment their slaughter. They could not stand before the howitzer and 30 muskets of the colonists; but fled in every direction to the woods, abandoned their assaults, and resumed their desultory and harmless warfare, which they were soon glad to exchange for peace. Since that lesson, they have displayed or attempted no more hostility, and their confederacy has dissolved again into numerous and conflicting tribes. In their disunion and weakness, without arms or ammunition, they regard the Colony with respect and fear.

They have learned to admire its institutions from its strength and prosperity, and from the Christian charity and justice which its inhabitants exercise towards them in all their dealings. Docile and tractable in their nature, rather uncivilized than savages, having none of the ferocity and stubbornness of the North-American Indian, they are anxious that their posterity should partake in the blessings which they behold; and 70 children, sent by their parents for that purpose, are now distributed among the families in the Colony, to be brought up as their own offspring, in the language and arts of civilized life and the Christian religion. Thus has Liberia already begun to realize the anticipated effect, of shedding the light of civilization and the Gospel on benighted Africa!

The Colony now contains, in the fifth year of its existence, about 500 inhabitants; who live in comfortable houses, and cultivate successfully, the rich fields that the Society bestow gratuitously on all who emigrate. They are self governed; they elect their own officers of justice, of the militia, and of civil duties—their institutions are, in fine, a miniature of those of this Republic. We began less prosperously. The Territory has been much increased, both in size and value, by recent purchases; extending along the coast for 20 miles, and indefinitely into the interior. Monrovia, the principal settlement and capitol of Liberia, built on the high promontory of Mesurado, is defended by a militia of 90 men, well armed, and a strong fort of masonry, amply provided with cannon and ammunition. The commerce of this place has also surprisingly augmented. From the 1st of January to the 15th of June, of the year 1826, there were exported to New-England, Great Britain, Sierra Leone, France, the West Indies, Norfolk and Baltimore, dye woods and ivory to the amount of \$43,980. The profits on this, to the exporters, will appear, in calculating the difference between the African market and those of Europe and America, to have been about \$30,786—such a trade must be very lucrative.

Indeed, the prosperous condition of the colony is strongly displayed in the fact, that when the brig John, Capt. Clough, of Portland, Maine, arrived there in June or July last, her whole cargo worth \$11,000, was disposed of in ten days; and every cent paid, for its laws do not allow the people to buy on credit.

It is with particular pleasure that we remark, that a brig is about to be despatched from this port to Liberia, by one of our wealthy and public spirited merchants, and that there is a probability of several respectable colored people availing themselves of the opportunity of emigrating. We trust that her trip may justify its repetition, and that those who depart may find all their hopes accomplished, in this world and in the next.—Packets ply four times a year between Portland and the Colony; and such an intercourse between it and this City would prove highly advantageous, in affording the means of emigration to those who wish to remove, by establishing a frequent and ready intercourse between the colonists and the coloured people here, by demonstrating the advantages of the scheme in a commercial view, and calling to the attention of a generous, republican, and Christian public.

The great objects of the Society are, to convert and enlighten Africa, and compensate her for the torments we have inflicted; to improve the condition of the

Free Blacks by transferring them, with their own consent, from this country, where they can never be but nominally free, to another where they shall be really so; to remove a mass of men, foreign to us, though among us, and both a discredit and a disadvantage; to abate the rigours of slavery, by withdrawing every pretext for harsh treatment, by opening a door to manumission, by making room for an increase of whites, who will destroy the value of compulsory labour, and by thus gradually diminishing the number of slaves and slave-holders, until liberation can be effected by purchase, or public opinion prevail as in the northern States, against the crying evil.

This is a scheme for the philanthropist, the statesman, the patriot, the Christian. Though he may count (which I doubt,) its complete efficiency, the smallest degree of success should amply reward him for his labour and donations.

Commerce of the United States.  
On Monday, in compliance with the provisions of the act of February 10, 1820, requiring accurate statements of the Foreign Commerce of the United States, to be made annually to Congress, the Secretary of Treasury made a Report on the Commerce and Navigation of the U. States, for the year ending September 30, 1826, accompanied with an explanatory letter from the Register of the Treasury. The report embraces—

1. A general statement of the quantity and value of merchandise imported in the U. S. from the first of October, 1825, to the 30th of September, 1826.
2. A summary statement of the same.
3. A general statement of the quantity and value of domestic articles exported.
4. A general statement of the quantity and value of foreign articles exported.
5. And 6 Summary statements of domestic and foreign articles exported.
7. A general statement of the amount of American and foreign tonnage employed in the foreign trade of the U. States.
8. A statistical view of the Commerce and Navigation of the United States.
9. A statement of the Commerce and Navigation of each State and Territory, and
10. A statement of the tonnage which entered into, and departed from, the principal ports of the United States and the Lake ports.

From these statements it appears that the imports during the year ending on the 30th of September last, have amounted to \$84,974,477; of which amount \$80,778,120 were imported in American vessels, and \$4,196,357 in foreign vessels.

That the exports have during the same period, amounted to \$77,593,322, of which \$53,055,710 were of domestic, and \$24,537,612 of foreign articles. That of the domestic articles \$46,199,528 were exported in American vessels, and \$6,856,182 in foreign vessels; and of the foreign articles \$23,353,288 were exported in American vessels, and \$1,185,624 in foreign vessels. That 942,206 tons of American shipping entered, and 958,012 cleared from the ports of the U. States, and that 105,654 tons of foreign shipping entered, and 99,417 cleared during the same period.

The Register of the Treasury states that the amount of register tonnage employed in the foreign trade on the 31st Dec. 1825 amounted to 700,789 that the enrolled and licensed tonnage amounted to 657,899 that the tonnage of fishing vessels amounted to 64,424.

As appears by the annual statement of the District tonnage of the United States transmitted from this office on the 10th inst.

The Register further states that in conformity to the 10th section of the act above referred to, the articles exported have been valued at their actual cost or the value they bore at the time of their exportation in the several ports from which they were exported, and that the articles imported were valued at their actual cost, or the value which they bore in the foreign port from which they were exported for importation into the U. S. at the time of such exportations free of any subsequent charges whatever.—[Nat. Journal.

MAXIM—Never be dependant on any person, who you know to be of an overbearing disposition.