The Independent.

"But as we were allowed of God to be put in Trust with the Gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing Men but God, which trieth our Hearts."

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The Independent.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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Our Special Contributors.

THE FOUSTAIN.

AN INCIDENT.—During the siege of Sevastopol, a Russian shell buried itself in the side of a hill without the city, and opened a spring. A little fountain bubbled forth where the cannon-shot had fallen, and during the remainder of the siege afforded to the thirsty troops who were stationed in that vicinity an abundant supply of pure cold water. Thus the missile of death from an enemy, under the direction of an overruling Providence, proved an almoner of life to the parched and weary soldier of the Allies. —*From a late number of The Independent.*

IMPELL'D by maddened men, athirst
For human life, and hands accursed
With the unrighteous shedding of much blood,
The red ball thro' the still air hiss'd,
But lo, the living mark was miss'd,
And, staid of God, it fell where steed nor rider stood.

Hot with the cannon's fiery breath
It sped surcharg'd with pain and death,
Cleaving the hard earth in its downward flight,
And from the hillside trampled o'er
By hurrying hosts, and stained with gore,
Gushed forth cool waters in the sunny light.

And the glad soldiers finding there
Upon the hill that fountain fair,
Paused for a moment 'mid the fev'rish strife,
And drinking gain'd from thence fresh strength;
And thus death's destined tool at length
Became instead a revelation of new life.

Thus once, impatient for the blood
Of One who long had meekly stood
An uncrown'd King amid the hungry horde,
Fierce hands with scoff and jeer
Lifted the Roman spear,
And pierc'd the body of our blessed Lord.

And lo, forth from the wounded side
Of him they madly crucified
Came limpid waves with heavenly healing rife—
A fount whose waters live
Throughout all time, and give
To those who thirst strength, purity, and life.

And in that fountain cool and still,
Weary of life's stern march and drill,
And the tumultuous conflict not yet o'er,
Christ's soldier stoops and dips
His fever'd, sin-parched lips—
Quenching his spirit's thirst for evermore.

Geneseo, Ill. M. B. S.

BROWNSON ON SLAVERY AND THE WAR.

BY HORACE GREELEY.

IT is a very common and very mistaken complaint that the War makes no progress—that the Nation is no nearer the subjugation of its rebel enemies than it was several weeks or months ago. If the struggle in which we are engaged were an old-fashioned international contest, there would be more than plausibility in this murmur; but when it is considered that this is essentially a War of Opinion—a clash of two radically hostile systems of Thought and of Society—we realize that its progress is correctly measured quite otherwise than by the results of its battles or by comparing the present with the former relative positions of the confronting armies. If you would rightly estimate the probabilities of an early and successful issue of the contest, do not ask which side has already won the most advantages in arms or taken the most prisoners, but rather what is the drift of public sentiment with regard to the necessity of maintaining the Union and the duty of vanquishing its enemies at whatever cost or sacrifice.

Ten years ago, he who unhesitatingly demanded the overthrow of American Slavery was popularly regarded throughout our cultivated and fashionable circles as a fanatic and incendiary if not a traitor, and labored under very strong suspicion in courtly religious circles of being a dangerous heretic if not a downright infidel. It is not yet a year since the organs of the mercantile interest in this and other Northern cities were gravely urging the expulsion of the New England States from the Union in order to coax South Carolina and her confederates in Secession back into the Union they had so emphatically repudiated! Our commercial magnates deemed no sacrifice too great that would secure a restoration of their gainful trade with the cotton-planters; and these planters have since responded to this subserviency by swindling our jobbers out of Two to Three Hundred Millions of Dollars honestly due them for goods, bankrupting half and impoverishing most of these their faithful servitors. From all the rebel South has gone up one frenzied yell of exultation over this barefaced robbery of men whose political and social creed had for years been summed up in the proposition—"Give the South anything—reasonable or otherwise—so that you keep her in good humor and allow us to grow rich by selling her goods." To-day, even *The New York Herald* proclaims that our Southern trade involved "a sacrifice of feelings and principles" on the part of its Northern beneficiaries; wherefore it quite sensibly concludes that we may do better without it! If we have learned the lesson that to strike hands with wickedness is not the true way to wealth, has not its cost been fearful? and when shall we have finished paying it?

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The Religion of this Republic has been, next to its Commerce and before even its Politics, a main bulwark of the Slave-Power. Not that enlightened Conscience and Christian ethics have not pointedly condemned Southern Slavery—not that the Pulpit has been utterly silent, or the Religious Press wholly muzzled, or Christian denominations alike and altogether subservient to the giant Iniquity, for there have been honorable examples of fidelity in Pulpit, Press, and Church; but it is nevertheless mournfully true that the various institutions and organisms through which Religion made its appeals to the American heart have in the main been accomplices of Slaveholding. For each organization aimed to establish and maintain a National character; and, as no openly, actively, formidably anti-Slavery organization would be tolerated in the Southern States, it was deemed possible to be National only by conciliating or deferring to the Slave-Power. Hence the deplorable recreancy of the American Tract Society and of many kindred organizations; hence the complicity of most of our older and wealthier denominations in the crimes and shames involved in the chattelizing of Man. And of all these denominations, the Protestant Episcopal alone can vie with the Roman Catholic in the unanimity and persistency of its devotion to American Slavery.

Orestes A. Brownson is an American phenomenon. Cradled in poverty and obscurity, he has achieved a place among the world's living thinkers and a large measure of regard from cultivated and inquiring minds. Reared a Protestant, and having passed through nearly every phase of what Rome deems heresy, from the sternest Calvinistic Orthodoxy to a Rationalism which the common mind could not distinguish from Infidelity, he finally embraced the Roman Catholic faith, and became at once its most ardent, uncompromising champion. "Of course, he will soon change again," was the general comment on the avowal that he had turned Catholic; but he has for nearly twenty years continued, and still continues, a vehement defender of the claims of the Bishop of Rome to be regarded as Vicar of Christ and earthly head of the Christian Church. A vigorous polemic, and unsurpassed in logical acuteness, he has devoted the best years of his life to the advocacy of a cause which is popularly supposed to rest wholly on authority and care little for logic. Always intensely American, he has, since he became a Catholic, opposed Revolution, Radicalism, and Abolition, pushing his conservatism to the extent of eulogizing "noble old Radetzky" and condemning every effort to liberate by force the European masses from regal and aristocratic oppression. At last—Slavery having broken with conservatism and with Americanism in urging war upon the Union—Mr. Brownson brings his powerful battery to bear upon the new Anarch, and in the current October issue of his "Review" speaks out boldly for the overthrow of the fundamental cause of our National perils and woes. Hear him!

"The question of the Abolition of Slavery is becoming with us a practical question in a sense it has never before been. The Rebellion of the Slave States, which has for its object, not so much the dissolution of the Union, or the separation of the South from the North, as the reconstruction of the Union on the basis of Slavery, or, as the Vice-President of the Confederate States has it, with 'slavery as its corner-stone,' and therefore the extension of Slavery over the whole country, cannot fail to force this question upon the grave attention of every citizen of the loyal states, who loves his country, and believes in the practicability of freedom. The Slave States, by their rebellion and war on the Union are compelling us to regard this question as one which must soon be practically met, and are forcing all loyal citizens to make their election between the preservation of the Union and the preservation of Slavery. This, whatever the Federal Administration, whatever individuals or parties in the Free States, with or without Southern or Pro-Slavery proclivities, may wish or desire, is pretty soon to be the inevitable issue of the terrible struggle in which our glorious and hitherto peaceful Republic is now engaged. Perhaps, at the moment we write, the last of August a majority of the people of the Free States may not only shrink from this issue, but even honestly believe it possible to avert it altogether. The bare suggestion of the Abolition of Slavery may shock, perhaps enrage them; but events march, and men who mean to be successful, or not to be left behind, must march with them. Another disaster, like that of Bull Run, or another unsuccessful action, like that of Wilson's Creek, where the brave and noble-hearted Lyon fell, a martyr to the cause of his country, and a victim to the failure of his Government to send him timely aid, will do much to change the feelings and convictions of the loyal citizens of the Free States, and, perhaps, force them to give up the last hope or thought of preserving both the Union and the institution of Slavery. It requires, however chary our public men may be even of whispering it, no extraordinary sagacity or foresight to perceive that, if the present war is to be continued, and the integrity of the nation restored and maintained, the war can hardly fail to become a war of liberation, or that the Northern blood and treasure, which it demands for its successful prosecution, will demand in return, as their indemnification the emancipation of the slave, and the universal adoption for the South as well as the North of our Free Labor System.

"We need not say, for the fact is well known to our readers, that no man, according to his ability and opportunity, has, since April, 1838 more strenuously opposed the Abolition movement in the Free States than we have: not because we loved Slavery, or had any sympathy with that hateful institution, but because we loved the Constitution of the Union, and because we believed that liberty at home and throughout the world was far more interested in preserving the Union of these States under the Federal Constitution, than in abolishing Slavery as it existed in the Southern section of our common country. But we believe, and always have believed, that liberty, the cause of free institutions, the hopes of philanthropists and Christians, both at home and abroad, are more interested in preserving the Union and the integrity of the nation, than they are or can be in maintaining Negro Slavery. If we have opposed abolition heretofore because we would preserve the Union, we must, *a fortiori* oppose Slavery whenever, in our judgment, its continuance becomes incompatible with the maintenance of the Union, or of our nation as a free republican state.

"Certainly we said in the article on *The Great Rebellion* in our last Review, the North has not taken up arms for the destruction of Negro Slavery, but for the maintenance of the Federal Government, the enforcement of the laws, and the preservation of the Union. This is true. The liberation of the slave is not the purpose and end of the war in which we are now engaged. The war is a war against rebellion, an unprovoked and wicked rebellion, engaged in by the Rebels for the purpose of making this a great Slaveholding Republic, in which the labor of the country shall be performed by Slaves, either black or white; and if, to defeat the Rebellion, the destruction of Slavery be rendered necessary and be actually effected, it will change nothing in the character or purpose of the war. It will have been necessitated by the Rebellion, and the Rebels will have only themselves to thank for the destruction or abolition they force us to adopt in defense of liberty, the Union, and the authority of the Government."

—There are nearly *forty* pages mainly as hearty as this; but one more extract must suffice. It is that which treats of the efficiency of Emancipation as a war measure:

"Whether the time for this important measure has come or not, it is for the President, as Commander-in-Chief of our armies, to determine. But, in our judgment, no single measure could be adopted by the Government that would more effectually aid its military operations, do more to weaken the Rebel forces, and to strengthen our own. Four millions of people in the Slave States, feeling that the suppression of the Rebellion and the triumph of the Union secures to them and their children for ever the *status* of free citizens, are more than a hundred thousand men taken from the forces of the enemy, and twice that number added to our own; for they would not only compel the Rebels to keep a large force, that might otherwise be employed, at home, to protect their own wives and children, but would deprive them of the greater portion of that labor by which they now subsist their armies. Now Slavery is to them a source of strength; it would then be to them a source of weakness. Its abolition would, in our judgment, be striking the enemy at his most vulnerable point, precisely where we can best sunder the sinews of his strength, and deal him the most fatal blow.

"Moreover, it would not only bring to the assistance of the Federal arms the co-operation of the whole colored race in the Union, but would secure us, what we now lack, the sympathy and moral aid of the whole civilized world, and remove all danger of our coming into conflict with either France or England. The war would be seen then likely to effect a result with which Englishmen and Frenchmen could sympathize, and, instead of wishing for the success of the Southern Confederacy, they would wish with all their hearts for the success of the Federal arms. It would do more than this. It would bring to the aid of our volunteer force from one hundred to two hundred thousand brave and stalwart volunteers from the Free States, aye, and even many from the Slave States themselves, who will not, and cannot be induced to volunteer their services in a war which, even if successful, promises to leave the institution of Slavery not only existing, but more firmly established than ever. Everybody knows that Slavery is at the bottom of the whole controversy, and that the real object of the Southern leaders is not simply to protect Slavery against Abolition movements where it exists, but to extend it over the whole Union, and make the American Republic a great Slaveholding Republic. And there are men in large numbers amongst us, men who have had no sympathy with Abolitionists, who see and understand very well that, even were we successful in putting down the present Rebellion, no real union between the North and the South could be restored, and that no durable peace between them could be re-established, if Slavery continued to exist. These men enter not and will not enter heartily into the war, unless they see clearly and feel fully assured that it will result in the final and total extinction of Slavery throughout the Union and all the territory it may now possess or hereafter acquire.

"The present rebellion proves what thoughtful and far-seeing men in all sections of the Union have long seen and said, that the preservation of the Union with the Slave System of labor extending over one-half of it, and the Free Labor System over the other half, is, in the ordinary course of human affairs, an impossibility. Senator Seward, or rather Mein Herr Diefenbach in our Review before him, was right in saying there is an 'irrepressible conflict' between the two Systems. They cannot long coexist together in peace and harmony; there is an irrepressible tendency in each to exclude the other; and no possible wisdom or prudence, on the part of any administration, can harmonize their coexistence under one and the same government. You must make your election between the Systems, and adopt for the whole country either the Slave System or the Free Labor System; and the real significance of the contest in which we are now engaged is as to which of these Systems shall be the American System."

—Such is the efficiency with which Messrs. Jefferson Davis and Company have labored in the good work of abolitionizing the Free States that even the "irrepressible conflict" is readily accepted and proclaimed by one of their newest converts as obvious and axiomatic truth. Gen. Cass, it is credibly reported, recently remarked that, though he had all his life been hostile to the Abolitionists, he yet saw no issue from our present troubles save through Emancipation. The signs of healthful progress exhibited by such landmarks of fossil Democracy as Gen. B. F. Butler, Daniel S. Dickinson, and B. F. Hallett, are already well known. Whatever may be the immediate issue of the Slaveholders' Rebellion, there can no longer be a doubt that it will fix in every enlightened mind the great truth of the inexorable antagonism of Liberty and Slavery. There will be an American Democracy after this war shall have been concluded; but negro-traders will not be its leaders nor plantation overseers its most vehement champions. And thus this atrocious Rebellion, disastrous as are many of its incidents, cannot fail at least to imprint deeply on the popular consciousness an important and salutary lesson.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

THE First Long Island Volunteers—known as the Brooklyn Phalanx—have set an example worthy to be followed by every regiment in the army. We take from a private letter of the chaplain, Rev. James C. Beecher, the following commendable statement:

"The Regiment has passed its first pay-day. I have forwarded, per Adams's Express, *from nine to ten thousand dollars*, in amounts varying from ten to thirty dollars, for privates, up to two hundred dollars for officers; and I have sent by mail and private hands probably *three thousand dollars more*. This work keeps me busy day and night, but if the men are disposed to send money to their families, I don't know any better employment for me than to encourage and assist them."

Here is a single regiment saving from their first pay the handsome sum of twelve or thirteen thousand dollars, for the benefit of their families. If any regiment has set a better example than this, we shall be happy, on hearing the facts, to make them public.

FOLLOWING CHRIST.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

"FOLLOW me!" This is the Christian's marching orders. And whosoever takes not up his cross and follows the commands of Jesus, cannot claim to be a true disciple.

I. And the very first thing that is requisite in following Christ is to have a new heart. This takes a man back to the "wicket-gate" of the way of life—conversion. The new birth is essential at the very outset. Stop a moment, my reader! right here. Settle this question first. Have you a new heart attuned to the love of Christ? You cannot take the first step in a life of holy and happy obedience until your affections have been given to the Savior. The carnal heart is wholly and for ever as intensely hostile to Christ as is the most tyrannical slave-driver hostile to Fremont's proclamation of liberty. The carnal heart weaves no crown of glory for the lowly Jesus; it plats for him only a crown of thorns. It bows not to his scepter; but only holds out to him a reed of mockery. It takes up no cross for him; rather does it nail him to the cross, and by every willful sin crucifies afresh the Lord of Glory.

But when the converting power of the Holy Spirit has come to you in answer to prayer, and changed and sweetened and purified your affections, then springs up a deep, genuine love of Jesus. This is the prime essential to a right noble and godly life. In fact, *love to Christ is essential Christianity.* It is more than a mere admission of his divinity—more than an admiration of his sublime character—more than a cold assent to his claims. It involves a faith in him so deep, an attachment to him so real, and a devotion to him so thorough, that it amounts to a new principle in the heart. Attachment to Jesus Christ, implanted in the soul by the Holy Spirit, is the ground-work, and the *only* possible ground-work, of a beautiful and effective Christian character. The deeper this love, the deeper the piety. The stronger this love, the greater will be the readiness to make costly sacrifices for his cause.

Does not my reader remember the famous political campaign of 1844, which furnished such wonderful instances of romantic devotion to the idolized orator of Kentucky? Time, talent, gold, were all laid at his feet. The counting-room and the work-shop, the loom and the anvil, harvest-fields and law-books, all appealed to their owners in vain. Their ears were deaf but to their leader's call. For him they journeyed afar to mighty gatherings; for him they mustered vast processions—wore his name on their breasts and floated it from their housetops. And when the long, arduous struggle ended in dark disaster, we saw strong men weep aloud, and like Judea's stricken mothers they "refused to be comforted." There are men in this country who will carry down that political sorrow to their graves. To-day they worship a tomb under the oaks of *Ashland* with more veneration than they feel for any living statesman.

Now that is what we mean by devotion to a leader. Where the heart-loyalty is strong, there is but little difficulty in making the external manifestation. Paul found it easy to cry out, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" when the newly implanted love of the Crucified leaped into a blaze on the altar of his heart. Peter girds his fisher's coat about him, and impatiently plunges into the sea, when he sees the risen Master on the strand. Patmos *with* Christ is a sunnier spot to the Beloved Disciple than Cæsar's throne would have been without Christ. For these were the men who "followed the LAMB whithersoever he goeth," and love was the vinculum that bound them to the Captain of their salvation.

II. A good definition of serviceable piety would be —*following Christ* without a question and without a murmur. Does the pierced hand point us up the Hills of Difficulty? Then up the steep acclivity let us go, even though we fall from running to walking, and from walking to clambering on the knees. Does he bid us follow him into the Vale of Humiliation? Then welcome be reproach for the sake of one who entered Gethsemane for us. The cost of the sacrifice is never to be counted. He that loveth father or mother, houses or lands, more than Christ, is not worthy of him.

One day, duty lays its hand of impressment on the shoulder of a gifted young man or woman, and commands them to a foreign field. Christ says, "Yonder is thy sickle waiting for the reaper; yonder is the harvest waiting for the garner. No place for thee in these parts; thy place is beside the Ganges, or on the torrid sands of Africa." Following Christ makes such men missionaries. John Howard was but searching for the foot prints of Christ in the dismal vaults of prisons and of dungeons. David Brainerd found them amid the forests wild—and Henry Martyn was but treading them when he explored the jungles of India and the sand-plains of Persia.

A man need not cross oceans either to follow Christ. Whenever the owner of a winning tongue turns away from the allurements of the bar or the rostrum for the privilege of preaching salvation to the dwellers in some remote unnoticed parish, he is following Christ. Whenever a layman determines not to sleep away his Sabbath afternoons on his sofa or over his newspaper, but to go out after the ignorant squalid waifs of the alley and the tenement-house, what is he but following his Master, who if on earth would delight in the mission-school more than in the cathedral? Whenever a sweet daughter of the church decides that instead of passing an idle hour in pulling silver bells on marble doorsteps, she will climb to the attics where wretched poverty is groaning on its sick-bed, she is surely following him who went about doing good. Whenever you see a heroic statesman standing up in his high place for justice, truth, and liberty, you see one (as far as that noble act is concerned) who obeys Christ rather than man. And on the other hand, when a professing Christian is seduced into scenes of frivolity and folly, or into the cabals of intrigue and chicanery, then he or she has turned squarely away from their Master and their Model. For where Christ would not go—if on earth —no Christian ought to go. Would it not be a strange place to look for the Savior in the ball-room or the theater, at the card-table or the convivial party, in the caucus where honor was sold and righteousness bartered for "the spoils?"

Blessed is the man who never sets his foot in any path of conduct without looking carefully for the way-marks of his Master, and consulting his guide-book! Through some lowly doors, where pride must stoop low to enter, he may be called to pass. Over thorny paths he may be made to tread. Up more than one mount of sacrifice, bearing heavy crosses, he may be summoned. But so that Christ be the leader, he may not be afraid to follow. And in heaven it will still be his joy and his glory to "follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth." There the "Lamb who is in the midst of the throne shall feed him, and lead him unto living fountains of waters."

"Our knowledge of that life is small,
The eye of faith is dim;
But 'tis enough that Christ is there
And we shall be like him."

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WHO ever saw a spider with ten legs? Nobody; until the appearance of the last *Vanity Fair*. That paper had a drawing representing Beauregard's army as a spider, Manassas Junction as his hole, and Munson's Hill and Falls Church as little insects on the web. But a happy idea was spoiled by an unhappy rendering. We believe that our friends, the spiders, when last heard from, were living with their customary eight legs, and not ten as in the picture. The best effect of a pictorial caricature is always lost when the drawing departs too widely from Nature.

OUR BOYS GOING TO THE WAR.

BY MRS. E. M. OLMSTED.

As down the red October hills
The swollen torrents leap their rills
Past broken flumes and waiting mills
With rushing noise,
So, hand to hand, with parting thrills,
Sweep forth our boys.

Not fierce to hate but strong to dare,
They hunt the traitor in his lair;—
The loneliest cot has one to spare
From home's sweet joys;
The fondest heart still breathes the prayer,
God speed our boys!

No hirelings from Oppression's hold,
No lawless mob in rapine bold,
No patriot cast in Freedom's mold
With base alloys;
Fresh from the mint, earth's finest gold,
Our sterling boys!

What hopes, what faith engird them round,
What songs of cheer to heaven resound,
What prayers that peace may yet abound,
Each heart employs;
While tears fall on the hallowed ground
Where sleep our boys.

One thought, one prayer to Him all-wise
At morn and evening sacrifice,
Till Freedom, stooping from the skies,
Her wings shall poise;
And one victorious anthem rise,
God bless our boys!

CAMP LIFE.

AN ENEMY WITHIN THE SOLDIERS' TENTS.

BY AN OFFICER OF THE ARMY.

ONE cannot live in camp very long without seeing and feeling that whisky is a foe as much to be dreaded by our armies as the rebels arrayed against us. Vigorous efforts have been made in the East and in some parts of the West to drive this enemy from the camp, but so far with only poor success.

Let any Christian pastor enter a regiment as a soldier or an officer, (not a chaplain,) and live in camp for three months, and he would be astounded at the prevalence of liquor drinking. He would find liquor kept in the tents of the officers; he would see it taken as a beverage twice, thrice, a dozen times in a day; he would witness the offer of it to every friendly incomer, and not infrequently would behold those who offered and those who were the guests quite under the control of the deadly enemy they were treating so carelessly; and this would not be confined to the unprincipled nor the younger officers, but would be seen among men whose gray hairs would imply wisdom and self-respect—among men with a reputation for moral and religious character—among professed Christians. I have heard officers advanced in years, who had never been accustomed to drink intoxicating liquors in their previous life, say that now they could not get along without their three drams a day. I have seen those very high in rank so intoxicated as to be fairly uproarious; and I have known a case of a rebel officer with a flag of truce kept under the supervision of, and sharing the tent with a commander of a brigade, who, part of the time, was so much under the influence of liquor as to have no control over his language or actions.

There are regiments—I hope very many—where such a state of things is impossible. But I have been among fifteen or twenty thousand soldiers—living in camp and sharing their life—and the prevalence and evil effects of liquor drinking among the most of them are worse than I have described them.

Of course, this is more true of the officers than of the privates. Those in command fully understand the damaging influence of liquor, and forbid the use of it among the common soldiers. But still they procure it in some way. They steal it; they smuggle it over the lines; they bribe the sutlers, or they even enter the tents of officers in their absence and secure it there.

What a state for an army to be in! In what a wretched condition must the officers be for the making or reception of an attack!

If the secret history of our disastrous skirmishes, our unfortunate delays, our miscalculated advances, were writen, the cause might be found in the incompetency, through liquor, of those in command. We have already had hints of something of this sort, and it would not be difficult to give other and broader ones.

But aside from this aspect of the case, what an effect is this producing upon our young men, and even upon the older ones, now in military life! What fatal habits are being formed that will never be given up! What toils are being woven around bodies and souls that may never be torn off! Does not bodily and spiritual death threaten?

The question comes—What is to be done? In the first place, it is little use to talk to privates and expect them to sign and keep a pledge as long as those in authority over them drink freely and publicly. And there is little benefit in soliciting a movement from subordinate officers while the superiors take no step. The end is not to be gained by official prohibition of drinking. This in reality extends only to privates, and means they are to look out and not be caught. But this thing is needed: the officers in command, from the highest down, whether they be of a division, a brigade, or a regiment, must step forward and pledge themselves to abstain *wholly* from the use of intoxicating liquor. They must do this not for their own sakes, or for fear of their own danger, but for the sake of those under their command. No matter if they think occasional drinking harmless—no matter if they are very moderate in their habits—there must be open and absolute renunciation. Then the private soldiers can be addressed, and with such examples before them, by constant watchfulness and by severe penalties, the practice may be pretty thoroughly driven out.

I have seen this tried. I have seen a captain who had been in the habit of drinking, and knew no harm in it—but felt that something must be done for his men—step out in front of his company and say, "By the help of God, not a drop of liquor shall henceforth pass my lips while I am a soldier. How many of you, my men, will take a stand with me in this?" And I have seen the greater part of the company come and stand by his side and enter into the same obligation. But more than this is needed—the colonel, the lieutenant colonel, the major, and the other staff-officers, must do the same. Then the regiment may be considered purged. Nothing but urgent and immediate efforts will save us from a demoralized army, and, worst of all, from a debased, degraded soldiery, to be sometime thrown back as wrecks upon the shores of homes and communities.

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THE story that Garibaldi was coming to this country to draw his sword in support of the Union cause proves to be utterly without foundation. The Paris newspapers contradict *The London Times*, and declare that American diplomatic agents in Europe have not made any overtures to any European officers with a view to joining the Federal armies. Besides, Italy cannot afford to lend Garibaldi to anybody. Nor would the general cause of Liberty gain by taking away from one struggling nation its acknowledged leader to make him a subordinate officer in the army of another.

THE REPORTS OF BRITISH RECOGNITION.

OUR English Correspondent has written somewhat elaborately in regard to an absurd report which we had some weeks ago, that the British Government had determined to recognize the nationality of the Southern revolters. The statement was alleged to be made on the authority of letters received by our Government from Mr. Charles Francis Adams, American Minister at London. It is true that such a story was ostentatiously put forth in double-leaded type in *The New York Tribune*, as having been telegraphed from Washington city on authentic grounds. But our friend has greatly overestimated the importance of the fable, if he supposes that it had any serious influence here, where its inherent absurdity was instantly apparent to all intelligent circles. For example, we ourselves never thought fit even to take notice of it, although it came to hand at the moment we were making up a summary of late news for our columns. Indeed, at the first impulse, we had it in type, but the second thought, on seeing it in proof, satisfied us at once that Mr. Adams had made no such communication, and we canceled the paragraph. And the whole thing was so little thought of, that the conductors of *The Tribune*, who are supposed to feel a responsibility for the truth of what they print, have never deemed it necessary to tell the public how or by whom they had been imposed upon.

What our people have based their feelings upon, in regard to the intentions of the British Government, was the haste with which that Government accorded to the Rebellion the rights of a belligerent power, without any of the limitations with which it afterward saw fit to qualify its recognition, together with the eagerness with which nearly all the old organs of public opinion, representing both parties of the governing classes in Great Britain, pronounced the dissolution of our Republic to be final, and denounced the efforts of our people in support of a free Government as a fratricidal and wicked war.

Here were facts, which our country was called to look in the face, and to which, having adjusted our calculations, the flying rumors of the telegraph no longer occasioned uneasiness. It was a stern necessity that impelled us forward, and we should therefore meet as we could whatever interference any foreign power might put forth—when it comes.

THE SENTIMENT OF THE PEOPLE.

A WAY OF GETTING AT IT.

"SHALL the Government declare slavery abolished?" It is clear that President Lincoln will not do it, unless the people of the loyal states shall express their will that it shall be done.

Why not have ballots prepared, and laid before the people, to be used at the first election which takes place in each loyal state? We can thus make known our wishes in a way that would secure the attention of the Government, and if the vote should show that a large majority of the electors are in favor of an immediate abolition of slavery, the present Administration *may* have courage to take the step. Give us the vote. RUSTIC.

THE TRUE ISSUE.

THE following letter from a distinguished minister in Connecticut, just received, states the great question now before the country in its true light. I hope it will be read and pondered by those in authority. The people of the free states must come to these conclusions, and act upon them, or we and our children are undone. T.

"It seems to me that God has almost miraculously brought us into a position in which nothing is easier than the abolition of slavery. Seven months ago we professed, at least, to be trammeled by constitutional obligations. How we should escape these trammels seemed to baffle all human wisdom. God has now, with a breath, swept them all away, and seems to say to our nation, 'The path of duty is not only plain, but perfectly unobstructed before you. I have shown you, by the experiment in the West Indies, that the emancipation of the enslaved is not only perfectly safe, but advantageous to master and slave. By allowing the oppressor in his insane rage to raise the banner of rebellion, the nation is absolved from the slightest obligation to maintain that compromise with wrong into which your fathers entered.'

"If we do not now strike the fetters from the slave, when God has made the way so plain, we shall add infinitely to our guilt. We are the modern Pharaoh, against whom God is contending; and he will, I think, continue to send plagues upon us until we let the people go free. The milder, incipient plagues we have already received at Bull Run and Lexington. I greatly fear that our stubbornness will not relent until the whole ten have exhausted their energies upon us. But then, when wasted and woe-stricken—when all our first-born are in bloody graves, and a wail of anguish arises from our land such as earth never heard before—then we shall be ready to let our bondmen go.

"Many of our papers avow the determination that we will not free the slave if we can possibly put down the rebellion without resorting to that measure. Even *The New York World*, with its many Christian sympathies, says, in reference to the possibility that it may be *necessary* to emancipate our enslaved brother, in order to save the Union, 'When there is danger that it will come to that, let slaveholders beware. The day it is settled that either slavery or the Government must perish, that day slavery will be doomed. The Northern people are determined not to yield to this accursed rebellion; and if it shall prove that they cannot conquer it without emancipation, they will conquer it with emancipation.'

"What a fearful invitation is this for the descent of divine wrath. In accordance with this sentiment we pray, 'O Lord, bless us and help us to put down this rebellion, and we will for ever enslave thy children, our brothers. But curse us, Lord, and send disaster after disaster, and then we will let thy people go free.'

"It is indeed a marvelous period in our country's history; and every man who can speak, write, or act, should now be at work for God and humanity."

HOUSE-WARMING.

PERSONS who spent the summer months in the country, have mostly been hurried home to city life again by the change in the temperature of the mornings and evenings, reminding them of the necessity of preparing for winter. The heat of which we complained, we will now soon complain for the want of. Among modern improvements for the convenience and comfort of dwellings, the improved methods of heating them should be classed with the best. The old-fashioned spacious chimney corners, with the great logs blazing and cracking on the andirons, are scarcely ever seen now. If the former generations of thrifty housewives should see the new substitutes for open hearths, they would be at a loss to know the utility of furnaces and heaters, supplying all the heat required throughout the house by means of pipes. But although the poetry is gone, the heater is a labor-saving invention, and more cleanly than the "old-times" hearthstone.

The popular apparatus known as "Sanford's Challenge" Heater, is certainly one of the best and most economical. Messrs. Sanford, Truslow & Co. of this city, the manufacturers, have philosophically studied their business, and have been able to add such improvements to the Challenge Heater, first offered to the public nine years ago, that they now claim it is unexcelled. The furnaces in brick, the portable and fire-place heaters, are all made on the same principle, and from the number of testimonials which they have compiled in pamphlet shape, we judge that the people will indorse our comments.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

BY OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 6, 1861.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE INDEPENDENT:

If we were to believe all the stories of the enemies of Gen. Fremont—the most of them find their way into *The New York Herald*—we should come to the conclusion that Fremont by this time is not only court-martialed, but exiled to his gold-mines in California. But such is not the case. Fair play is a jewel; and the people are determined that Fremont shall have it. *The Herald*, however, was not so far wrong as some people thought when it declared that Fremont was to be superseded. This was planned in high circles, and would have been carried into execution but for the voice of the people. The enemies of Gen. Fremont openly boasted of his fall. They were certain of it, and were informed by very distinguished persons connected with the Government that it was sure to occur. The simple truth is that the men who had arranged for the disgrace of the Western General had not calculated rightly upon the hold which Fremont has upon the popular heart. There need be no fear at present that he will be deprived of an opportunity to show his capacity as a general; but the opposition to him is only sleeping—it is not dead. If he does not win an immediate victory, whether he has troops enough or not, his removal is a foregone conclusion. There is, however, to be a settlement ere long, when the difficulties which have been heaped in his path will appear.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the feeling among the politicians of this latitude is against Fremont's proclamation. A majority of the Cabinet agrees with the President, but Secretary Cameron is reported to side very decidedly with the Western General in his policy toward slavery. The time-servers, the timid, and the unprincipled all combine against the proclamation. There are also many truthful, honest, loyal men who believe it impolitic to interfere with slavery *at this time* by proclamation or otherwise. The sentiment of the people of the loyal states is far in advance of that of Washington on such subjects, and this is the principal reason why the Administration lags behind the people. Society here is more or less pro-slavery—it is certainly not anti-slavery. But *improvement* is the word of the hour. Things grow better every day. The logic of events is inexorable, and presidents as well as pro-slavery clergymen give way before it. Just as soon as our army gets fairly in among the slaves and the fight grows intense, will the Government grow anti-slavery. It must be remembered that in Virginia and Missouri *thus far*, a dozen proclamations of freedom to all the slaves would have emancipated but few slaves. We have first to show that we have the power to touch slavery—to convince the slave that we *can* step in between him and his master. Till then, as a matter of course, the slaves will cling to their masters for self-protection.

There are some facts connected with the slavery question, in this city, which need ventilation. Our city jail is crowded with fugitive slaves. They are without claimants, and many of them doubtless once belonged to men now in the rebel ranks. One of them certainly did, for his last master was John A. Washington, of the Mount Vernon estate. By what statute these slaves are kept in the U. S. jail, no one seems to know. They are put and kept there by a Republican marshal, and it is a well-known fact that prominent office-holders here hold that the late Confiscation Act does not free the negroes who come under its operation, but simply turns them over from rebel masters to the United States Government—the Government owning them. According to these theorists, the people of the North have become slaveholders by the act of Congress, and it rests with them, through Congress, to decree the fate of the confiscated slaves, whether they shall be sold at auction or freed. This is not the view the men who made the law took, nor will any anti-slavery court make any such decision; but under these mistaken views, shameful injustice is done a number of colored men now lying in the U. S. jail, and kept there by authority of a Republican Administration. Slaves are also continually returned to claimants *from camp*, and files of soldiers often are seen escorting a fugitive back to his master, or to the District jail. These outrages must and will have an end.

The army of the Potomac does not materially change its position. The Government troops and the rebels face each other day and night, each side waiting for a favorable opportunity to attack the other. The slight earth-works of the enemy on Munson's Hill and other hills—their outer line of defenses, have been fully occupied by our troops, and instead of the ridiculous works of the rebels, respectable forts now exist, well mounted with cannon of large caliber. The fact stated by Gen. McClellan in a recent order that there are thirty-two forts around Washington, astonished many people. These have all been thrown up since last May, and twenty-five of them since the battle of Bull Run. It will be seen, therefore, that our troops have not been idle. They have been making the nation's capital impregnable. The warm weather, during which a campaign in an enemy's country is out of the question, has been improved in so surrounding Washington with defenses that thirty thousand can hold it against a hundred thousand; and when the hour comes to strike an offensive blow, two-thirds of the troops now here can be sent away if necessary.

This is the meaning of the apparent inaction in this vicinity. October is here, however, and but two months remain for active campaigning. We may therefore expect stirring movements soon. Such are the intimations of our military leaders. They do not hesitate to say that in a few weeks, and perhaps in a few days, great battles will undoubtedly be fought.

It is well known here that Gen. Wool and Gen. Butler sympathize warmly with Gen. Fremont. They agree with him that slavery is the cause of this war, and must be destroyed if it is in the way of the Government, or is in the way of the commander of a military department. So that if Wool proceeds to St. Louis on a tour of observation, he is not likely to interfere with Fremont's policy. As for Gen. Butler, he is temporarily laid upon the shelf, and, it is intimated, for the reason that he is unsound on the question of slavery. He has the promise of a command on one of the coastwise expeditions soon to set out from New York or Fortress Monroe.

Everybody now awaits the new coast expedition. When that strikes a blow somewhere upon the slave coast, McClellan will doubtless advance from Washington—and probably not till then.

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IN *The Independent* of September 26th was published a song beginning

"Does Freedom's flag dishonored lie?"

The writer offered it "for some composer to set to music." We have received suitable music from several different quarters, the receipt of which we thus acknowledge. The author of the song may have the musical manuscripts by calling for them at our office.

—

The Book of the "National Hymn Committee."—The sheets of this new volume of "Rejected Addresses" are rapidly passing through the press, and will be soon ready for publication.

It will contain selections from the best and from the *worst* of the twelve hundred contributions. The worst will doubtless be the most entertaining; they will be given *verbatim et literatim*, in all their grammatical and rhetorical effulgency. Specimens of the music will also be included in this unique volume. It is to be edited by Richard Grant White, who was one of the Committee, and has furnished an essay on National Hymns. The most popular of European National Hymns are added, to furnish a contrast with the efforts of the patriotic muse in America.

The Independent.

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