

Our Correspondence.

For Frederick Douglass' Paper. LETTER FROM HON. GERRIT SMITH.

PETERBORO, June 2, 1855. DEAR DOUGLASS—I suppose you see, that the eminent man, who writes against our "Maine Law," all agree, that the Federal Constitution authorizes no slavery...

It we have to regret this formidable opposition to our "Maine Law," we have, nevertheless, reason to rejoice, that it turns to the advantage of the anti-slavery cause.

Your friend, GERRIT SMITH.

For Frederick Douglass' Paper. PRELUDE AGAINST COLOR.

COLEMAN, Pa., June 4th, 1855.

MR. EDITOR—A few months since I ventured, through your columns, to correct what I deemed a slanderous imputation on the character and condition of the free colored population of the United States...

Mr. Editor:—I have not seen your issue of the 1st inst., in which you have published my article...

In diffusing from such high authority on a question of such vital importance, I only claim to be governed by the dictates of common sense...

If I fall to make out my case, it will be because the public will reject the testimony of the witnesses I shall bring to the stand.

I did then, and will now purposely avoid the discussion of the social department of the question, yet your numerous correspondents have chiefly confined their arguments to that department...

The colored population of Pennsylvania have complained of the injustice of being deprived the exercise of the Elective Franchise...

The colored population, both on the Reformer and the "Colored population," and the Reformer Convention.

Now if I could believe with your correspondents that we were disfranchised on account of our condition, I would think it immodest and presumptuous in us to petition for the exercise of a right we were not fitted to enjoy even on the grounds of our own admission.

The doctrine of condition as a passport to enfranchisement, has long since become obsolete as an American idea.

Of what use then are monumental piles and Statistical and Ethnological arguments to prove a standard of condition that conventionists and legislators do not question.

I was glad when you said into us all, irrespective of color or position, let us "go to work."

For Frederick Douglass' Paper. NEW ORGANIZATION.

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started a new chapter in the progress of independence. Are they not those who in the most part have broken loose from the grasp of slavery...

The past has not only given us to understand that the spirit and genius of progress, whenever required, demand a change...

No agency exclusively human have ever been able to mould a satisfactory plan for a general reform, unless that agency were in some manner identified with the aggrieved party...

We must, in our opinion, break loose not only from the iron hand of slavery, but also from the tutelage of those who have assumed unto themselves the special privilege of manufacturing our thoughts...

Individual existence cannot be recognized previous to its isolation from the parent stock; families are not recognized until organized as such.

But more anon, J. W. ADAMS.

LITERARY NOTICES. STAR PAPERS; or, Experiences of Art and Nature. By Henry Ward Beecher.

The readers of the New York Independent have all, doubtless, made the acquaintance of the "Star Articles." The contributor of those articles, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher...

"Taking a cab, I started for Warwick. The same smooth road, the same trees, the same beautiful view, the same blue sky over them, only the clouds are all islands now, floating about just above the horizon...

"Margaret Fuller has by some been called 'the most gifted woman of the nineteenth century.' By all she must be permitted to take her place in the foremost ranks of genius as an original thinker, and a bold and fearless writer.

This volume will insure a wide circulation.

DEWEY HAS IT.

BLANCH DEARWOOD. A Tale of Modern Life. New York: Buncie & Brother.

We have been favored with an advanced copy of this new American story. So far as we have had time to glance at it, it seems to us a remarkably interesting tale...

FORRESTER'S BOYS AND GIRLS MAGAZINE, for June, has come to hand. Good.

NORTH WESTERN CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE. The June number has reached us. GENTLEMAN AMERICAN! OUR Welsh friend has come to make us his monthly call...

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS. Gov. Reeder is preparing to return to Kansas with his family.

The Board of Health at New Orleans has officially recognized the cholera in an epidemic form in that city.

The Buffalo Democracy says there was never such a time for counterfeit bank notes, as at the present.

The Washington Globe says that the Know Nothings of that city at least spent \$100,000 on the Virginia election.

A three-masted schooner was loaded last week at Ludus Bay, Lake Ontario, with wood at \$23 per cord, to be sold in Chicago, Ill., where it is held at five or six dollars. This is a strange cargo to carry westward for a thousand miles.

A serious riot occurred in Portland, Me., last Saturday night, caused by the attempt of a mob to seize upon the liquor in the custody of the City Agent.

Mr. Gough, the great temperance lecturer, is about to return to America, in consequence of ill health.

Park's murderer, was hung at Cleveland last Friday. He spoke about an hour before the execution, thanking his friends for their attention to him in his misfortunes...

A fellow who gave out that he was a son of the celebrated Dr. Nott, of England, and engaged rooms for his father at a boarding house in Buffalo, got access to a lodger's room, and stole a watch and chain, when he disappeared...

Mr. Park, proprietor of the Luminary, recently destroyed by the Missouri mob at Parkville, has commenced a suit against the rioters, and employed Edward Bates, of St. Louis, as his counsel.

A family of slaves, eight in number, the wife and children of Rev. Hardy Motley, lately man in Augusta, Ga., have been purchased to freedom, the heirs of the former owner having deducted \$3,000 from the amount, \$6,000, at which they were valued.

The Tribune says, "the rains of the last three days, which have ranged far and wide and deep, have been most opportune, coming in fact in a very critical time in many sections of the country."

A negro named Freeman, living at Altou, Ill., died recently from the effect of injuries received from the police. Freeman was connected with the escape of slaves from Missouri.

Mr. Beecher is an enthusiast on paintings.—He therefore details, on amore his visits to the London, National and Vernon Galleries, and the Dulwich Gallery should not have escaped him, and to the Louvre, Luxembourg in Paris.

W. W. Goodwin, of Richmond, Va., recently took to Detroit, Mich., four slaves, two of whom are children, their mother, who is married to a free colored man, and their grandmother, who was his own nurse in infancy.

The St. Louis Republican has authority for saying that Dr. McLean and lady of Franklin Co., Mo., have made a proposition to the Mo. Colonization Society, to send all their slaves to Liberia, through the agency of said Society.

SLAVE CASE AMONG SHAKERS.—Thomas Davis, of Montgomery county, died many years ago, providing by his will that a negro girl belonging to him should serve the heirs of his son till she arrived at the age of forty, and that she and all her increase should be free.

The negroes wish to see for their freedom, and, in such a suit, the name of a white man is deemed necessary. Under these circumstances, Jas. Richards, a member of the society of Shakers, came forward in his suit as their next friend.

THE DEEDS OF DEATH.—It is not well to take warning of the times that are coming; and to recognize the fact that such a welcome as this, to the most outspoken anti-slavery Senator on the floor of the capitol, is the first ripple of a tide that will not be disregarded...

WILLIAM J. WILSON, STEPHEN SMITH, JOHN W. LEWIS, Committee.

NOTICE. Is hereby given, that the second adjourned Annual Meeting of the Union Council will be held in the village of Geneva, on the second Friday of the present month, June, commencing precisely at 10 o'clock A. M.

By order of the President, D. BLAKE. CANANDAIGUA, June 2nd, 1855.

From the Utica Teetotaler. LETTER FROM GERRIT SMITH. PETERBORO, May 26, 1855.

MR. BAILEY: MY DEAR SIR—My letter in the last No. of your Paper was written, after my examination of only a part of Mr. Hill's Opinion. On examining the remainder of it, I perceived, and then hastened to express, as a public letter, my misapprehension of Mr. Hill, at an important point.

Mr. Hill's virtual position is, that there can be no slavery under the Federal Constitution. But whether he holds that the Federal Constitution forbids slavery in every part of the nation, as well as in those parts, where the Federal Government has exclusive jurisdiction, I do not know.

I am happy to see from your Opinion, published in the same No. of your paper, that Chief Justice Beardsley goes as far in the anti-slavery direction, as Mr. Hill does. It is well for the cause of Freedom, that he so fully avails himself of the opportunity.

The Know Nothings of Massachusetts and New Hampshire now stand upon the Free Soil platform. In New York they are antagonistic to Free Soilism, and at the South they are, of course, pro-slavery.

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TO THE RADICAL POLITICAL ABOLITIONISTS. We are few—but we are not, therefore, to cease from our work. Work for a good cause, be that cause popular or unpopular, must be work to the end.

Special Notices. A CALL FOR A NATIONAL CONVENTION OF COLORED AMERICANS.

FELLOW CITIZENS.—The present aspect of the times, and the condition of our brethren in bonds, and our own peculiar position as Free-men, require of us some well-directed effort to counteract the debasing influence that holds us in our present anomalous condition in this our native country...

After close observation, and mature deliberation, we have arrived at the conclusion, that the Free People of Color, if they would disengage themselves from whatever tends to impede their march, and remove whatever obstacles are in the way of their progress...

Who, it may be asked, can lay a stronger claim to a cause, and who, having the power and ability, can better promote it, than the most deeply interested; and upon whom has the elevation of the People of Color in these United States a stronger claim...

Years of well intended effort have been expended for the special freedom of the slave, while the elevation of the free colored man has been entirely overlooked.

It is equally obvious that since the work of elevation of the Free People of color is (so to speak) the lever by which the whole must rise, that work must now receive a vigorous and hearty support from all of those upon whom it has a claim.

The work thus foreshadowed for the consideration of the Convention, is various, and much of it difficult; yet, the power of its accomplishment lies in systemization and direction of it, and while we would make no direct specifications—while we would be prescriptive in nothing, still we would recommend such a course as shall prepare us, and those to come after us, to take a manly part in all things in which we have an interest, in common with the rest of our fellow citizens.

To the department of Agriculture, also, we would have it direct its attention and encouragement; so that, in all, there will be betog in us, and in our youth especially, a strong and increasing desire for these pursuits.

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