Our Correspondence

Africa.

The following letters have, very fortunately, just arrived in time for our first number. They were not intended for publication, we know; but we have thought our readers would be interested as we have been, in the facts related. The writer, Miss McGuyre, is a colored lady, who, with other missionaries (among them Mr. George Thompson, sailed for Kaw Mendi last fall. We have reason to expect that we shall hear often from Miss McGuyre, and from the other friends whom she mentions. We are sure their communications will always be welcome. By permission we copy first from a letter to a lady of this city:—

Sierra Leone, Western Africa, February 8, 1853.

Dear Friend:—It was on the 25th of December, 1852, that I left the United States for Western Africa. We embarked on the *Martha Clark*, a small vessel of two hundred tons burthen, Austin Miller of Maine, master. With the crew we numbered twenty persons. On our passage out we had about ten days of stormy weather. On the fourth and fifth days the wind and waves seemed to gather strength and fury, and every night we thought we should be lost, and find a watery grave. Hogsheads of water were thrown into the main deck, until the water stood three feet deep. Now and then a wave would dash over the after-deck, and would throw great quantities of water down into the ladies' cabin. About this time, Mr. Thompson's little boy was thrown out of his berth, and sailed clear across the cabin into another state-room. The chairs and every loose piece of furniture were in commotion; the stove and pipe flew in different directions. What was worse, we could not fix up the stove any more; consequently, the cabin was wet and cold for many days. Although I was sea-sick nearly all the time, my health is now good.

We are still in Sierra Leone, but expect to leave in a few days for our place of destination.

Excuse the hurry which [illegible] better exhibits, for I have many to [illegible] and the vessel will soon sail. Yours truly,

Mahala McGuyre.

Sierra Leone, Western Africa, February 9d.

Mr. Wm. H. Day:—As [illegible] not yet reached Kaw Mendi, [illegible] Boom River; but I have [illegible] directly from there. H[illegible] is well at this time, and [illegible] Teffi desires to be remembered to inquiring friends. * * *

I arrived in Sierra L[illegible] ternoon, the first of [illegible] Leone is a beautiful [illegible] ocean on one side, and [illegible] tains on the other. Th[illegible] Freetown. The houses [illegible] well built; the gardens are [illegible] with palm, orange, cocoanut, [illegible] nana, plantain, and breadnut [illegible] Mr. Gray and family are well. In one of the trees [illegible] beautiful, white bird sitting, and [illegible] sing the same a most Eden-like [illegible] scene.

When I reach Kaw Mendi I will endeavor to induce Mr. Gray and Mrs. Sarah Green to write. Give my love to all who may be disposed to inquire after my welfare. Yours, with respect,

Mahala McGuyre.

Mr. Gray, mentioned above, is from Oberlin, and will perhaps be recollected as the colored missionary who sailed in the fall of 1850. His many acquaintances in this State will be glad to learn that he is succeeding so well. Mr. Teffi is a graduate from Oberlin, who sailed with Mr. Gray; and Mrs. Sarah Green, (we suppose,) is the lady who was Miss Sarah Kinson, one of the Amistad captives.

The Corresponding Editors.

In the East, the Corresponding Editors of *The Aliened American* are so well known as to need no other recommendation of their merits than the announcement of their names. In the west, however, they are not so well known. We therefore copy from Dr. Delany's work, his remarks concerning each. On the 112th page he says:

Rev. Samuel Ringgold Ward was, for several years, pastor of a white congregation, in Courtlandville, N. Y., of the Congregational persuasion, and editor of an excellent newspaper, devoted to the religious elevation of that denomination. Mr. Ward is a man of great talents—his fame is widespread as an orator and man of learning, and needs no encomium from us. His name was put on nomination for two or three years, as Liberty-party candidate for Vice President of the United States. Mr. Ward has embraced the legal profession, and intends to practice law. Governor Seward said of him, that he "never heard true eloquence until he heard Samuel R. Ward speak." Mr. Ward has recently left the United States, for Canada West, and is destined to be a great statesman.

On page 113, Dr. Delany remarks:—

Rev. James William Charles Pennington, D. D., a clergyman of New York city, was born in Maryland,—left when young—came to Brooklyn—educated himself—studied divinity—went to Hartford, Conn.;—took charge of a Presbyterian congregation of colored people—went to England—returned—went to the West Indies—returned—was called to the Shiloh Presbyterian Colored Congregation—was sent a Delegate to the Peace Congress at Paris, in 1849, preached there, and attended the National Levee at the mansion of the Foreign Secretary of State, Minister De Tocqueville; and had the degree of *Doctor of Divinity* conferred on him by the ancient time-honored University of Heidleburg, in Germany.

He has, by invitation, delivered lectures before the "Glasgow Young Men's Christian Association;" and "St. George's Biblical, Literary and Scientific Institute," London.

We would add, that Dr. Pennington has lately been elected Moderator of the Third Presbytery of New York—a Presbytery as influential as any in this country.

Convention in Butler County.

We received, some time since, a copy of the *Hamilton Intelligencer*, containing the following record. These proceedings were not sent us for publication, for it was known that we had not then completed our arrangement for a new Paper, but we re-publish them, gladly. They will read well at any time.

Pursuant to notice, a Convention of the colored people of Butler County was held in Oxford, on the 7th inst., for the purpose of appointing a delegate to the State Convention to meet in Columbus, on the 19th day of January, 1853. The meeting was organized by appointing Alfred J. Anderson, chairman, and Andrew Sampson, secretary.

A committee of five was then chosen to prepare business, and they submitted the following as expressive of our sentiments and objects of the Convention.

Whereas, The signs of the times show clearly that a crisis in the history of the colored race in this country, is rapidly approaching—that to prevent it, requires disinterested spectators, withholding our co-operation and support, while the strife at issue is relative to our own rights and our own interests, is to acknowledge, in the fullest sense our inferiors to enjoy any of the rights and privileges we claim.

Resolved, That we will on all proper occasions and to the fullest extent of our limited abilities, do all we can to promote the emancipation of our enslaved brethren and our own political equality.

2d, *Resolved*, That for the successful accomplishment of these ends, we must be *consistent* advocates of the principles here published, and that we think our State Conventions should not in advance pledge the colored people to the performance of more than it can reasonably be expected they will accomplish, regarding as we do such pledges, highly injurious, and should, therefore, be discontinued.

3d, *Resolved*, That this meeting, holding American slavery to be degrading to humanity and contrary to every principle of justice and mercy, and opposed to the true spirit and principles of Christianity.

4th, *Resolved*, That we, therefore, highly commend those churches and associations that have come out in favor of a pure gospel and a pure ministry, and have interdicted all fellowship with slaveholders.

5th, *Resolved*, That we regard the [illegible] as consent to go to Africa.

6th, *Resolved*, That we regard the [illegible] as disposed a degree of solicitude for the *moral debauched hold hearts*, [illegible] the land of their birth to the shore [illegible] territory, multiplied States, are [illegible] breath and augmented population [illegible] proved to be unfounded [illegible] and concludes that this one "elements" [illegible] current force"—a consciousness [illegible] elements have kept pace with [illegible] rallelled progression" in territory, [illegible] us to us, this conclusion is a begging of the question. In the minds of [illegible] *free of the people of the Republic* [illegible] is "apprehension of dangers" still, [illegible] in the extension already secured, and [illegible] in the extension towards our *territory* [illegible] *of slavery*—namely, the securing still [illegible] courses as to the Social Slave-trade plan [illegible] not a sign of strength. It *may be the* [illegible] ker mark of weakness. England, the [illegible] ment this country was severed from it, [illegible] is stronger than before. A country or [illegible] government is strong not as it pro[illegible] esses in, territory, but as that country [illegible] velops its own resources, as it advances [illegible] education, in general intelligence, and [illegible] a strict sense of justice. Let these be [illegible] absent, as to an alarming extent they are [illegible] absent here, and expansion is but an evil. Says the Inaugural, "Although comparatively weak, the new-born nation was intrinsically strong. Inconsiderable in population and apparent resources, it was upheld" [not by expansion of territory, but] "by a broad and intelligent comprehension of rights, and an all-pervading purpose to maintain them, stronger than armaments." *There*, as we have said, was its power, and in proportion as that "comprehension of rights" is "broad and intelligent," will our present government and country be powerful, and "a consciousness of strength" be induced, even in weakness.

2. We do not see that as a nation we have reduced our theories to practice in proportion as we have extended our territory.

3. We are glad to admit that there is some ground for President Pierce's idea that *energy*—one of the "elements of inherent force in the Republic"—has keen pace with our progression. And well has he expressed it: "The stars upon your banner have become nearly three fold their original number. Your densely populated possessions skirt the shores of two great oceans." Yet what kind of an energy has it been? There *is* an energy silent as the grave, and yet powerful enough to bring life from dull clods—*innate* energy; in a national sense, energy or force of character There *is* an energy like that of flame, sparkling, crackling, dazzling, dying. We have had an energy without; but have not had its counterpart within. Increment without has not been based upon a fixed, pure principle within. Things understood, agreed upon by the Fathers of the Government have been boldly disregarded, and a one-sided, selfish policy made the basis of nearly all our increase since. While this *directive* energy is wanting, we feel that the President overlooks a vital point, when he says—"the policy of my administration will not be controlled by any timid forebodings of evil from expansion."

4. Nor do we believe that our Government has shown devotion to freedom.—Mere devotion to preservation of the Republic may not be devotion to freedom, however much nations of the old world may be cheered by the republican principle. Our devotion to freedom is not evinced in this [illegible] The law of *self-preservation* may [illegible] the Republic, and yet that Republic deliberately trample upon man's most sacred rights. We believe the Founders of the Government intended devotion to *Freedom*. Said Franklin, "That mankind are all formed by the same Almighty Being, alike objects of His care, and equally designed for the enjoyment of happiness," the Christian religion teaches us to believe, and the political creed of the Americans fully coincides with the positions." Yet that political creed has been violated, continually. While at the commencement of the Government, the rights of five hundred thousand human beings were wrested, according to the last census, the number is represented to be thirty-one hundred thousand—a sixty-fold increase, since 1776, of twenty-six hundred thousand—an increase, during seventy-six years, as the rate of thirty-five thousand two hundred and twenty-nine, annually. This increase of slaves—not freemen—is the result of the Government, especially, when, at that early day, it was believed slavery would die out, is startling, and speaks of anything else than a "devotion to freedom." Now, instead of barely yielding "thirteen States, Slavery grew rampant in sixteen, [illegible] territories. Another reason [illegible] which we may refer to, is "devotion to Freedom," [illegible] Slavery exists, nine are new ones. Our Government has not been spoken, as "the asylum of oppressed nations" has, for "the largest rational liberty."

We think, therefore, that the President has occupied a wrong stand-point in making an conclusion that "the elements of inherent force in the Republic have kept pace with our unparalleled progression."

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Upon the subject of the protection of American citizens, the Message is explicit and frank. "The rights which belong to us as a nation, are not alone to be regarded, but those which pertain to every citizen in his individual capacity at home and abroad, must be sacredly maintained." We trust this is not mere verbiage. And to show its sincerity, we hope the Administration will apply the principle in the State Department, so that precedents will not be denied to American citizens going abroad. We believe, with the President, that "good relations may still claim the protection of good laws, and the benign influence of good government."

In relation to the Fugitive Slave Law, "as a law, we seek, and shall seek, its repeal." Upon this point, the Message does not disappoint us. Mr. Pierce's course in Congress, his course in New Hampshire politics, his course as to the Nebraska Slave-trade plan, all led us to suppose him prepared to maintain the constitutionality of Slavery, and of the enactments to defend it.—We are, therefore, not surprised to hear the President say—"I held that the law of 1850, commonly called the Compromise Measures, are strictly constitutional and should be carried into effect." Still, we protest against his opportunely seeking to soothe the feelings of such Slaveholders over so lightly, the action of the South in favor of Disunion—a fear of the whole country—and that too, when he feels that "with the Union his best and dearest earthly hopes are involved." The President forgot, or if he did not forget, cared not to remember, that the South, for whom he was pleading, trampled every day upon the Constitutional rights of free citizens. Let some Northern citizen of Massachusetts, or Ohio, go to the port of Charleston or New Orleans, and the common Constitution, spreading its aegis from the St. Johns to the Pacific, and guaranteeing the "citizens of each State, shall be entitled to all the rights and immunities of citizens of the several States." is overrode by a State enactment, or a borough ordinance. Why did not President Pierce, as the President of the *Whole*, remember *these* things? Even Daniel Webster, on the notable 7th of March, said that these offences of the South were "unpredictable and oppressive." Yet President Pierce's desire for justice should expend itself where justice and the Constitution are violated. The Compromise Measures were themselves infringements upon our constitutional rights. Mr. Clay himself admitted before the Kentucky Legislature, that in them the South had been the gainer. There is a North, and that North has rights, as sacred as those of the South, and yet we are willing to give to other parties all belonging to it, if we are unwilling, where the States are equal, and the North, by its own action, in the minority, that the South should be held up as the great National Martyr, and the North as the National Aggressor.

There is a Constitution:—let it be obeyed. There is a majority of Law:—let it be obeyed. There is a Constitution:—there is a Popular Voice:—it should speak for the Constitution. *That*, which ever it "strengthen the fraternal feeling of all the members of our Union" or not, should be applied to Federal and State Governments. The will the desire of our Fathers be attained, namely:—"to establish justice; to provide for the common defense, and to secure the blessing of liberty to us and our posterity."

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President Pierce's Inaugural.

The Inaugural Message of President Pierce, although in some of its rhetoric obnoxious to criticism, generally reads well. The manner, too, of the *delivery* of the Inaugural is said by those who heard it to have been capital.

The President's allusion to the severe affliction which had befallen his family is touching. He however dispels the idea of the necessity of any special leniency to his new position, for he enters upon it, he says, "with nothing like shrinking apprehensions."

He calls our attention to the increased duties of an administration of to-day, on account of the "changes which have occurred" "in territory, in population, and in wealth," and here adverts to a question perhaps in its bearing more important than any other to a nation, and which he says, "has been the subject of earnest thought and discussion on both sides of the ocean." That question is—"Whether the elements of inherent force in the Republic have kept pace with its unparalled progression?"

What *are* the elements of inherent force in the Republic? As we glean them from the Message, they are: 1st. A consciousness of strength even in weakness; 2d. A desire to reduce theory to practice; 3. An energy; and 4th. A devotion to freedom. And the President seems to suppose the question so discussed "on both sides of the ocean," to be entitled to an affirmative answer. We beg leave to say we do not so see it. We admit that there is a consciousness of strength in the revolution. We admit that the founders of the Republic believed sufficiently in the government, to adopt the republican principle; and that they felt that the country was safe in pursuing a certain policy. Still, if we rightly recall the memories of those days, this "expansion" was true to a marked extent. President Pierce afterwards virtually admits that "the actual working of our system has displeased a degree of solicitude for the *moral debauched hold hearts*, [illegible] the land of their birth to the shore [illegible] territory, multiplied States, are [illegible] breath and augmented population [illegible] proved to be unfounded" and concludes that this one "elements" [illegible] current force"—a consciousness [illegible] elements have kept pace with [illegible] rallelled progression" in territory, [illegible] us to us, this conclusion is a begging of the question. In the minds of [illegible] *free of the people of the Republic* [illegible] is "apprehension of dangers" still, [illegible] in the extension already secured, and [illegible] in the extension towards our *territory* [illegible] *of slavery*—namely, the securing still [illegible] courses as to the Social Slave-trade plan [illegible] not a sign of strength. It *may be the* [illegible] ker mark of weakness. England, the [illegible] ment this country was severed from it, [illegible] is stronger than before. A country or [illegible] government is strong not as it pro[illegible] esses in, territory, but as that country [illegible] velops its own resources, as it advances [illegible] education, in general intelligence, and [illegible] a strict sense of justice. Let these be [illegible] absent, as to an alarming extent they are [illegible] absent here, and expansion is but an evil. Says the Inaugural, "Although comparatively weak, the new-born nation was intrinsically strong. Inconsiderable in population and apparent resources, it was upheld" [not by expansion of territory, but] "by a broad and intelligent comprehension of rights, and an all-pervading purpose to maintain them, stronger than armaments." *There*, as we have said, was its power, and in proportion as that "comprehension of rights" is "broad and intelligent," will our present government and country be powerful, and "a consciousness of strength" be induced, even in weakness.

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New Books.

I. We desire to call attention to a second edition of the valuable work of 10 pages by Wm. C. Nell, of Boston. It is entitled "*Services of Colored Americans in the Wars of 1776 and 1812.*" The Book opens with an Introduction by that model writer, Wendell Phillips. Mr. Nell, in his Preface, says—"Imperfect as these pages may prove, to prepare every these journeys have been made to confer with the living, and even pilgrimages to grave-yards, to save all that may still be gleaned from their fast disappearing records."

We feel that the idea of preserving these records is just as important as any other. The facts in Mr. Nell's work are not generally known. Let us spread them by aiding the circulation of this work, and confirm them by collecting all others we can.

Orders for the work directed to Wm. C. Nell, Boston, Mass.

II. The Condition, Elevation, Emigration and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States, *politically considered. By Martin Robison Delany. Philadelphia, Published by the Author*, 1852.

In this work there is a great deal of valuable matter to be found no where else. And although we think the Doctor [illegible] and although we differ totally as to an emigration [illegible] still the Work is generally so excellent, that we prize it highly.

Orders for the Book to be directed to Dr. M. R. Delany, *Pittsburgh, Pa.*

III. Lecture on American Colonization and Kindred Topics. *By Rev. Alexander Crummell, Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah, Colored Congregation, Philadelphia. Published by J. H. Rhees & Co. Printed by Sherman & Ramsey*, 1853.

We are glad to be the author for a copy of this Work which, when we have leisure, we shall notice more at length. Suffice it to say, that it is the production of a man of talents, and that a portion of the work will be read and only read universally to the free colored people of the West. A portion of the work published by itself, would be valuable matter. Like the Book, it should be, it is well printed, and well bound, typographically, so the Publisher.

IV. A Plea for a Great Law: *A sermon delivered before the First Congregational Church, in Brooklyn, On by Rev. Colesby Dorrie, Pastor of the Church. Second edition.*

The surprising publication of this pamphlet upon the Maine Liquor Law, has furnished us a copy. We have not had time to read it carefully; but it appears to be eminently practical, and well adapted to effect good in favor of its principles. Those of our readers who were present at the Convention at Columbus, Jan. 19th, will recall the strength of the pleading by Commodore Stockton, "Law and Order, and Anti-Slavery." Such a point, in his speech upon the same subject.

It is furnished (postage paid) at $1,00 per one hundred copies. Address, H. M. Addison, Cleveland, O.

By the way, Mr. Addison's *Herald*, of which this is an Extra, is a spicy little sheet, devoted to Temperance, Liberty, Select Miscellany, and furnished by the year at $1 00 a copy.

We have received from the same publisher, "*Tents on the Maine Law*." Single copies, 25 cents; postage pre-paid by the publisher; forty copies, $1,00; one hundred copies, $2,00. Address as above.

The School Law.

No law has been made this winter of a nature than that upon Schools and Districts. If the copy which we have seen be a correct one, we must say we do not like all its provisions. Perhaps such a law as we desire, could not now be passed. In many of its parts it is a vast improvement upon the old law, endlessly amended as it was. We may publish the whole of it; we certainly shall, if we can discuss only authority" but at present we must defer publishing it for want of room.

Mr. J. A. Harris & Mrs. H. M. Tracy Cutler.

At the late St. Patrick's Festival in this city, the following speeches were delivered by the persons whose names head this article. We feel an interest in these speeches not only because of their intrinsic worth, but because of the pleasing circumstances under which they were made, and because of the woman whom Mr. Harris so admirably introduces. We knew her as most of our readers have known her as Mrs. Tracy. We became acquainted with her at our "People's College." We know well the circumstances of her "destitute widowhood," but we know, too, that no mother has brought up a more intelligent and better-behaved family. She not only *was*, in the language of Mr. Harris, "*takes* rank with an honest man;" she *took* rank long since. She was a fit helpmeet for such a man as Jonathan Tracy. He laid his life down for the hunted bondman—the fugitive from injustice. She has offered to do the same. We know well how he was mobbed—how he was exposed—how he sickened—and how he died; and she laid him away in the grave, joyful that he was "counted worthy to suffer persecution."

Another fact. The first colored man who cast a ballot in the county of Lorain, was Rev. William P. Newman. The first man who made an argument before the judges of election to enable him to do it, was Mr. Tracy. To Mr. Tracy, then, belongs, to a considerable extent, the credit of the practical application of the organic law of the State in our favor.

But like her husband's, Mrs. Tracy's sympathy for the poor, is not bound by geographical lines. It just now speaks for Ireland, because Ireland is a portion of down-trodden humanity. It is thus that her sympathy, like all true sympathy, sheds the world.

We give first the toast to which Mr. Harris was called upon to respond:—

"He but live left, and the land we live in—fields are locked up in the hands of heartless—social liberty is the on and weeds to perpetuate it in the other.

Mr. President—Ladies and Gentlemen:—Before speaking a word, let I have the pleasure of introducing to your regards a fair friend, who will, with your permission, for a few minutes occupy your attention. I have learned from her, I repeat, although a stranger to you, she is not a stranger to the Green since or year to old emblem. She will speak of Ireland as she saw it but a year ago, and of the Irish, and of the Irish woman, who, I asked a native American sister from the far-off adopted land of her nativity and duplicity, with the open hand, warm-hearted hospitality so characteristic of the true Irish character.

The lady of whom I speak is the daughter of a humble New England family, who exchanged the stone hills of Berkshire for a pioneer home. At a very early age, she followed her father, her young girlhood. She grew up in that free close of thought and mind, acquired most readily in Nature's grand, sublime and most expansive temples—the boundless forests and prairies of the great West. Reasonably shut up in the home circle, the rising maiden schooled herself in the heart's best virtues, and humanity's broadest heritage. She became the log-cabin wife and mother, and in the providence of God was long on the frontier—a pioneer and foundation of domestic well schools. Self dependent and self-reliant, she plies her hands and pen, and her eyes scan the newspaper and the page, as a life manuscript, for the good posts of the land, that some of her gems of [illegible] first published in this city, travelled across the Atlantic, and appeared in the London literary [illegible] was published as coined by the editor, came back to the United States and went to points in the American press as a favorite article, day continued to the London literature of the American Magazine.

Impressed with the necessity of a more thorough education and training of mind, the writer became a student of Mount Holyoke College, but she need walk paying her way by the business of teaching, keep up in her studies such the progress of her class. From that College she was transferred to the respectable post of Matron of the Oberlin Collegiate Institute, a position she occupied, as she had done and others expect to do, in 1852, she was appointed a delegate to the Peace Congress at Paris, and was chosen by the State Peace Society of Ohio, and well discharged her trust in an accomplished manner. By the process of education the most distinguished living philanthropists, beginning some thirteen months in England, and Scotland and France, she had not a moment's an opportunity for observation, improvement and conference. She mingled with the people of all ranks and conditions, talked with them in their cottages and workshops, and attended the public halls, and public halls, meeting the respect and kind of all with whom she came in contact, whether personal, affection, or table talk.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Such is a brief sketch of the speaker I have the pleasure of introducing to you on this occasion—a self-made woman, who, unlike, takes rank with "nature's noblemen" in the Divine and God-ordained Aristocracy.

Mrs. Cutler, on rising, was warmly greeted, and her address was listened to with the most marked attention. Its delivery made a deep impression, and was frequently applauded. She said:

After so full a foreign introduction from my long absent friend, I cannot hope to meet your attention, perhaps the most so far as impressions go, but deed, I do hope, upon the mechanics of the road, I may say cheered by the kindness and patriotism of many, but to none so I more indebted than to my absent friend, and France, who has so kindly taught me to feel that poverty need not crush the soul that is ready to rely upon its own inherent wealth; that source of all to a noble true and elevated mind, "not to be repressed nor crushed but rather stimulated."

It may not, however, be slight her happy pride for me to address you on this occasion in Ireland's Land, and Ireland's Language. I wanted to say the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Wellington, or the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Wellington,