







Poetry.

THE SPIRIT'S QUESTIONING.

While musing on the scenes of woe... THE SPIRIT'S QUESTIONING. BY MRS. M. B. JACKSON.

The Liberator.

REPLY TO MR. MAY'S LETTER.

Mr. Garrison—I am glad that Mr. May responded so promptly to my letter of the 27th ult., although I regret to learn by his response that my information as to his position is correct, and that he holds justly...

I did not desire to elicit any personal feeling. Abolitionists, in their labors and criticisms, should know only the slave, and him in chains; and I waive all notice of unkind allusions as not pertinent or worthy the matter in hand.

Mr. May, "looking beyond the President, his Cabinet and Generals, sees a country, a cause, institutions of freedom, and a possible future, all imperilled." Alas! I see the peril too; and I see them imperilled alone by this very President and Cabinet; and until they are changed in purpose, or removed out of the way, I see no hope of salvation to this nation, though I have hope for institutions of freedom; for I cannot believe God can risk their perpetuity upon the life of so wicked a nation as ours.

Mr. May speaks of my charging the American and Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Societies with having been, the past year, in the active service of the Government. If he will read more carefully, he will find that I do not speak of the societies, but of their "official representatives"; and again, in another place, in Miss Martineau's words, of the "proved leaders"; for I do not believe that the rank and file of these societies have so done, or that they have approved the course of such of their agents as have.

Mr. May claims that many of the speakers at the Abington list of August meeting took essentially his ground, and he heard no one rebuked. I cannot tell what was said there, as I was not present; but I have read what was reported of these speeches in the Liberator and Standard, and these reports do not contain anything that, by the utmost stretch, can sustain Mr. May's position.

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Mr. Phillips is reported, next, as denouncing in terms of unmitigated severity the government and its position, affirming that the government was "murdering" its soldiers in a purposeless war, and calling on us to pray for the capture of the capital by the South; and said that what we need most is, "a stunning blow, a baptism of blood"—and much else in the same strain, to the end of arousing the North to compel the government to free the slave.

The last Anti-Slavery Standard speaks editorially of this quota of men that Mr. May is desiring to fill, as "the three hundred thousand who are now about to be led to sacrifice." Can Mr. May ask men to enlist in a corps that are "to be led to sacrifice," to be "murdered"? I cannot. It would better suit me to fold my hands, as he suggests, though I do not purpose to do that.

Mr. May quotes R. D. Webb as hoping that the "Barons of the South" would not also become the "Lords of the North." "So I most deeply feel" myself; and I am ready to make any personal sacrifice, save of principle, of right, to prevent it; but of these never. I doubt if Mr. May can quote a word of Mr. Webb's that will justify his labors to sustain this pro-slavery government.

Mr. May will please understand that I do not at all impugn his intentional integrity to the cause of the slave. I have the highest faith in his personal conscientiousness and careful desire of rectitude. But it is the consistency of his position, mistakenly taken, as I think, that I impeach; and that I do most decidedly and earnestly. I can do no less.

And now I close by repeating, that it is not more men that the government needs to save "the country, the cause, institutions of freedom, and a possible future"; more men cannot possibly save it, or them through it, in its present position. A new position alone, if any thing can, will save it.

RIGHTEOUS RETRIBUTION.

FRIEND GARRISON,—It is seldom I see in the Liberator anything from the State of Maine at this momentous crisis; and I feel, though your columns are crowded, that I must occasionally send in my testimony, that justice may be done in the great struggle between Liberty and Slavery. I wish it to be known that all my desires, all my hopes, all my prayers, all my sympathies are with my brothers and sisters in bondage.

For more than thirty years, righteous men and women have cried to this wicked Government, "Let the oppressed go free!" But it turned a deaf ear. Now the plagues are coming! Mr. Garrison told them that judgment would be laid to the line, and righteousness to the plummet; that it was under falsehood they were hiding themselves; and that they would all be swept away when the flood came.

I am a peace man. For seventeen years, I have done what I could to abolish slavery and prevent war. You and your associates have done a vast deal more. Every warning has been uttered, every personal sacrifice has been made, every argument has been exhausted; still, the Government has gone on in its wicked course till justice has overtaken it.

A little less than a year since, spending a leisure hour in Springfield, I called at the office of the Republican, and subscribed for the weekly issue. One year. About the ability of this paper, which no one will doubt, I must say I have been sadly disappointed.

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MR. GARRISON AT WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

(From the Anti-Slavery Standard.)

Williams College, at Williamstown, Berkshire Co. (the oldest Orthodox College in Massachusetts), not only holds a high literary rank, but has always been prominent for conservatism. Its President, Rev. Mark Hopkins, D. D., is one of the Chief Rabbis of our American Israel, being President also of the American Board of Foreign Missions. Incredible as it may seem, one of the Literary Societies of this College chose for its orator this year, WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, who not unwillingly accepted the appointment. His oration, which formed a part of the literary entertainment of Commencement week, was delivered on Monday, August 13th.

The address of Mr. Garrison, before the Adelphean Union Society, was a wonderfully calm, dispassionate and judicious representation of the speaker's own views on the subject of emancipation. He took for his subject, "Our National Vindictive," and the timid people who expected all sorts of inflated propositions were pleasantly disappointed to find a thoroughly Christian address, and one which contained a greater amount of direct quotations from the sacred Scriptures, we venture to say, than any sermon or oration that will find utterance in this town this week.

Ten years ago, Mr. Garrison said, the strength and security of the Union seemed infinite. Its dissolution seemed almost the most improbable of all possible things. All declared that the Union must and should be preserved. To make it sure, Union-saving committees were organized, speeches were made, the shade of Washington was periodically invoked, and his farewell address repeated.

The adherents of European monarchies say that Democracy has been a failure. It has not been a failure in America, because it remains yet to be tried here. Democracy embraces all men. The rule of slavery in this country is despotism, in its severest form. A Democratic slave State is as ridiculous an anomaly as an idolatrous Christian State. The American revolution was not a struggle for the rights of human nature, but for colonial independence.

Mr. Garrison closed with a long plea for the immediate emancipation of the blacks as the only means of ending the war. We could never have again the Union and the Constitution as they were. His arguments did not differ from those which were the sympathy of the colored people, and by the press of the newspapers, and the arguments themselves, are nothing more, really, than assertions. The address was a strong and earnest thing, and given in admirable spirit.

THE PROGRESS OF IDEAS.

It was a philosopher of olden time that persisted in saying, under very discouraging circumstances, that "the world does move." But his persecutors could not see it, and therefore not only would not believe in such a monstrous heresy themselves, but were determined that no one else should. The philosophers of to-day not only believe that the world commenced to move a good many years ago, but have since continued to advance at an increasing speed under all circumstances, but the great change in public opinion on the leading topics of the day, within the last year, is so marked that he is a very blind man who can not perceive that at least the animal world is moving towards Christian toleration and human perfection.

When an institution of learning invites Wm. Lloyd Garrison to deliver an address, a man who has scarcely seen the inside of a college, and who graduated from an obscure printing office, and who claims the world as his alma mater, then there is reason to believe that what he has said and written has found response in the hearts of the young men who are to go out into the world to take an active part in the affairs of life.

Mr. Garrison has labored zealously for what seemed to him an all-important idea, against obstacles that few would have had the courage to encounter. He has been misrepresented, despised, mobbed, and almost crucified, for opinion's sake, yet he has never deviated from what he considered absolute truth. Whether his opinions have always been right or wrong, it is not our purpose now to discuss, but we do believe that no candid person can otherwise than admire his devotion to his convictions of right. Mr. Garrison is not what would be considered a practical man—one who could adapt himself and his philosophy to surrounding circumstances, and move on without coming in collision with some of the prevailing opinions of the day.

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AN APPEAL IN BEHALF OF THE PRESSED COLORED CITIZENS OF THE FREE STATES.

(From the Anti-Slavery Standard.)

Last evening, a large and attentive congregation was assembled in Shiloh Presbyterian Church, Prince street, to hear an appeal in behalf of the pressed colored citizens of the Free States, by the Rev. Henry Highland Garnet, pastor of that church. He commenced his discourse by setting forth the disadvantages under which his people in the Free States were laboring, and the insults and the humiliations to which they were subjected by the prejudice of the dominant class. He said, "The question is asked by what agencies has this shameful and degrading state of things been produced?—by what power another—the strong against the weak—the many against the few;—you all know what influence have compassed the sad work. Enemies have been busy among us—enemies to a weak and oppressed people—enemies to law and order, and enemies to the Government under which they live, and to the principles of the Christian religion."

He then proceeded to describe the sufferings of the colored people in the Free States, and the humiliations to which they were subjected by the prejudice of the dominant class. He said, "The question is asked by what agencies has this shameful and degrading state of things been produced?—by what power another—the strong against the weak—the many against the few;—you all know what influence have compassed the sad work. Enemies have been busy among us—enemies to a weak and oppressed people—enemies to law and order, and enemies to the Government under which they live, and to the principles of the Christian religion."

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