more space than we can conveniently spare for the purpose, and as it seems proper that the people, who are now required to bestow the second office in their gift on one of the persons implicated, should be made acquainted with the character, *moral*, as well as political, we shall endeavor to give an analysis of it, as briefly and impartially as our views of the subject will permit.

The abitrators, *Thomas Hart Benton*, *Henry Shefler Geyer, and Thomas M'Girk*, met at the Banking house in the city of St. Louis, on the 18th day of January, 1819; and after having heard the proofs and allegations of the different parties, in presence of *Robert Wash* Attorney for the *Johnsons*, and *Joshua Barton* Attorney for the Bank, finally awarded, substantially, as follows:

1. That *James* and *R. M. Johnson* pay to the Bank of St. Louis the sum of $15,000, the amount of a bill of exchange drawn on the said *Johnsons* in payment for stock purchased in their names by the Cashier, pursuant to their order; which bill was accepted by them, but subsequently protested for non-payment; together with the further sum of $2,400 interest and damages on the same—making in the whole $17,400.

2. That the said *James Johnson* pay to the said Bank the sum of $18,000, with $1,700 interest thereon—making together $19,170—being the amount of sundry certificates of deposite, and bills of exchange transmitted to the said *Johnson* for his own use, by the Cashier of the said institution, and negotiated by the former with the Miami Exporting Company, from which he obtained the proceeds of the same.

3. That the said *James* and *Richard M Johnson* pay to the said Bank, the further sum of $14 822 62½; being the proceeds of sundry drafts and bills of exchange on the Schuylkill Bank, drawn in favor of the *Johnsons* by the Cashier of the institution aforesaid, without the knowledge of the Directors, and applied to their own use: and also, that the said *J. and R M. Johnson* give to the above mentioned Bank their joint and several bonds for the additional sum of $1,000 to indemnify the said institution, in case it should be compelled to redeem certain other bills of exchange drawn as aforesaid, for payment of which suits had been instituted against the President and Directors thereof, but which still remain undetermined at the time of the award.

4. That the said *James* and *Richard M. Johnson* pay to the said Bank the further sum of $1 878; being the amount of a claim the institution aforesaid held against the Kentucky Insurance Company at the time the latter stopped payment—the said *Johnsons* being deemed equitably bound to liquidate the said claim out of the sum of upwards of $60,000, withdrawn by them from the funds of said Company about the time of its failure, and which the arbitrators considered as assets in their hands, justly chargeable with the demands of *bona fide* creditors.

5, 6, and 7. These clauses do not award the payment of any money from the said *James* and *R. M. Johnson*; but direct them to return to the Bank certain drafts and bills of exchange obtained by them from the Cashier, but still remaining unpaid, &c.

8 That the said *James* and *Richard M. Johnson* pay to the said Bank the further sum of $8 000, over and above the amounts above awarded, for the purpose of covering the costs and expenses sustained by the institution aforesaid in consequence of the transactions under consideration.

Now, it appears from this award, which was made after a long and laborious investigation by disinterested arbitrators, chosen by the parties themselves when taken in connection with the articles recently published, that, on the 18th day of January, 1819, *James* and *Richard M. Johnson* were actually indebted to the Bank of St. Louis, principally for drafts & bills of exchange negotiated by them with the Cashier of the institution, without the knowledge or authority of the Directors, in the sum of $55,270 62½ which the said *Johnsons* put into their pockets, and which the Bank has had to pay: besides the further sum of $84,000, which appears also to have been drawn out by the same individuals, but was in litigation between the holders and the institution aforesaid at the time the award was rendered.—It further appears that no part of this immense sum has ever been paid—the borrowers having so disposed of their property as to place it beyond the reach of the Bank, which soon became insolvent, in consequence of the loss sustained, and the shock given to its credit by this "fair business transaction."

We shall offer no comment on this very discreditable proceeding; but will leave it to the reader to meditate on, and to determine how far an individual who may have resorted to such means for the purpose of promoting his own interest, is worthy of the confidence of a virtuous and honorable people.

To the revilers of Wm. Henry Harrison—This resolution passed by a patriotic congress at the session of 1815 and '16 is respectfully tendered, as a bitter but salutary medicine:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, that the thanks of Congress be and they are hereby presented to Major General Wm Henry Harrison, and Isaac Shelby, late Governor of Kentucky, & through them to the officers and men under their command, for their gallantry and good conduct in defeating the combined British and Indian forces, under major general Proctor on the Thames, in Upper Canada, on the 5th day of October, 1813 capturing the British army, with their baggage, camp equipage, and artillery:

States be requested to cause *two Gold Medals* to be struck, emblematical of this triumph, and presented to general Harrison and Isaac Shelby, late governor of Kentucky.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The Washington (D C.) Mirror has hoisted the Harrison flag, and announces its determination to support the old General. The Mirror has heretofore been a neutral paper.

Another—The Mauch Chunk Courier, (Penn.) also a neutral paper, has joined the general voice, and hoisted the banner of the people's candidate, Wm. H Harrison.

And another—The 'Mountain Democrat,' which was established at Fayetteville, in Windham county, Vermont something more than a year since, to support Van Buren, has been discontinued.

Still another—The Trenton, (N. J.) Argus, a Van Buren paper, has also been discontinued.

And yet another—The Pittsburg Daily Advocate, has announced its determination to support the People's candidate for the presidency, the old veteran of North Bend.

A small sign in Maryland—There are upon the Wing Committees of Vigilance in Prince George's county, 27 influential persons who were formerly friends of General Jackson, but now go for Harrison against Van Buren.

Another in New York—The New York Loco-Foco General Committee have passed resolutions condemning Mr. Van Buren's letter in reply to their questions as to his principles in regard to their views about banks, chartered companies, &c. as 'evasive and unworthy the character of an eminent statesman.' They highly approbated Col. Johnson's reply to their queries.

And another in Kentucky—The hon. John Pope has declined running as an Elector of the Van Buren ticket, and Jesse Abell, of Marion county, has been nominated by the Van Buren Central Committee to supply the vacancy. The Louisville Journal states that Gov. Pope says that Van Buren ought to have been hanged for his agency in the removal of the deposites.

Signs in Ohio—We stated two weeks since (says the Maysville Eagle) on the authority of a gentleman from Adams county, Onio, that the veteran Harrison would receive a large majority of the votes of that county. This statement has been adverted to by the editor of the West Union Free Press, who seems to *doubt*, but does not *deny* any part of the statement.

In the counties of Brown and Adams, in 1832, Gen Jackson obtained a majority over Mr. Clay of 1300 votes. The Van Buren party now *claim* a majority of *three hundred*; and but three hundred for the little gentleman of Kinderhook! acknowledging thereby a dead loss of one thousand votes in two counties since 1832! An equal loss to Mr Van Buren in all the counties of the state would give Gen. Harrison a majority, at the November election, of nearly 30,000! votes.

Poulson's American Daily Advertiser

'Give them rope enough, and they'll hang themselves.'—The disgraceful conduct of the ruling party, is now verifying this old adage.—

The nomination of Martin Van Buren, as the successor of the present incumbent,—

The struggle in congress to appropriate the public money, to party purposes,—

The attempt of the beardless convention at Harrisburgh, to destroy a solemn charter—

The facilities given to certain members of congress, to purchase public lands,—

The refusal to investigate the conduct of pet banks, in the distribution of loans,—

The repeated application of the gag law in congress, to prevent debate, and stifle inquiry.

The prostitution of the Post Office, to party purposes,—

The increase of public expenditures, from twelve to thirty five millions a year,—and

The determination of Pennsylvania not to submit to Albany dictation, are evidences more than enough to show, that in pulling the rope they have hung themselves! Their doom is sealed—their fate is inevitable. The people have risen up in the majesty of their strength, and declare this man shall never rule over us! Look at Pennsylvania—New Jersey—New York—Ohio The changes that have taken place in these four commonwealths, are signs not to be mistaken. They alone are sufficient to destroy the detections of renegade Federalists,—the ambition of lawless depredators,—the influence of Van Buren duplicity, without bringing into view other important sections of the union, where great changes have taken place, in favor of good government, and virtuous men. I care not whether Harrison, White, or Webster, rides triumphant at the approaching election, but let us, as we value our country's safety, rally around the standard of him who stands foremost in the affections of the people. He who would be the most likely to defeat the dangerous condition of the Albany Regency, whose whole political life is an evidence of his hostility to Pennsylvania! —can we support such a man? —Never!

Are you willing to take a viper to your bosom? Heaven forbid! —Martin Van Buren can never be President of the United States, by and with the consent of Pennsylvania!

ANOTHER VICKSBURG TRAGEDY.

The New Orleans Advertiser of the 16th ult. has the following details of another scene of murder in Vicksburg.

TERRIBLE AFFRAY.

The steamer Carrollton, arrived on Sunday last from Vicksburg brings intelligence of a deadly affray which took place there previous to leaving, between a planter of the name of Randolph and a Dr. Watts, both citizens of the place It originated from an old grudge, said to have existed between the parties for some time It appears Dr. W. met Mr. R. on the morning of the 14th inst., when he drew from his breast a pistol, which he fired at Randolph; but missing him, and perceiving that he was unarmed, he ran up to him and inflicted several blows on his head with the butt end of the pistol Some time after, when Randolph had recovered from the blows inflicted on him, he armed himself with a brace of pistols, and meeting Watts at the Mansion house, where they both boarded, followed him and fired as he entered his own room, when in the act of setting himself alongside his lady.—The ball passed through his right arm; with the other he made an effort to seize Randolph, but failing, R fired a second pistol at him, the ball from which lodged in his side. The doctor's brother on being informed of the rencontre, seized a rifle and made towards Randolph's apartment, threatening to break open the door and take his life.—The window happened to be open at the moment R. fired from it with unerring aim, and shot W. through the heart. Both the Watts were placed on the same bed; the dead and dying—a sight well calculated to check the uncontrolled and fiery passions of those around Randolph, after the perpetration of the above, walked deliberately from the room into the street, amongst a crowd of spectators, with cocked pistols in each hand No attempt was made to impede his progress, and he quietly proceedeed to the ferry, which he crossed seemingly under no apprehension of arrest.

COLONIZATION.—The subjoined appeal to the friends of the Colonization cause in Marylagd, is copied from the fifth number of the Maryland Colonization Journal, recently issued. '*Help is Needed*;' and the appeal thus put forth, should stir up the friends of the cause in all parts of the State, to active operations in its behalf:

HELP NEEDED!—What can the friends of Colonization do to assist the Colonization Society to carry into successful operation the great work in which they are engaged? There are doubtless many benevolent persons throughout the State, who would gladly lend their assistance if they were informed in what manner their labor might be profitably directed. To such persons we would say, that there are several methods by which the friends of Colonization might render essential service, at very little cost of time or money.

In the first place, the Society publishes a Journal once in two months, in which the most recent and important advices from their Colony at Cape Palmas are inserted, and from the character and interest of the intelligence thus received, it is obvious, that, if generally circulated through the State, it would aid in a very essential manner in making friends to the cause among the white population, and if the necessary pains were taken to read and explain the contents of each number to the free colored people, that many of them would renounce their prejudices and emigrate to Liberia. Here then is an easy and most practicable way of helping Colonization.—First, by obtaining subscribers for this Journal, and secondly, by reading and explaining its contents to those for whose benefit the work is designed.

Again.—Almost any active person, male or female might solicit donations; and where it is practicable, organize societies, which might annually give a small contribution to the parent society. It is far better that such auxiliary societies should be organized by individuals residing in a town or neighborhood, than that the same work should be performed by an agent of the society, because they would be far more active and useful.—In addition to these, such societies might render important aid by taking a number of copies of the Journal for gratuitous distribution, and giving circulation to the annual reports of the society, and other important publications which they find it necessary occasionally to publish. But ministers of the gospel have it more immediately within their power to assist the cause than any other class of men. They can with strict propriety introduce the subject to their congregations, solicit donations, obtain subscribers, and in a variety of methods do much to give efficiency to the system. May we not earnestly appeal to every minister who is a friend to colonization, to devote a part of his influence to its support? Without such co-operation from those who are really friendly to this enterpise, what can the society do alone and single handed. Of all the schemes for colonizing the free people of color on the shores of Africa, that which is now sustained and prosecuted by the State of Maryland, is the most efficient—and if we may take the present aspect of the Colony into view, promises the greatest success.

If then, the citizens of Maryland are friendly to Colonization—and many of them contributed liberally to the cause before she had a colony of her own, can it be doubted that they who under other circumstances, and these less favorable, gave freely to the support of the enterprize, will now withhold their contributions from the Colonly planted and fostered by the State? We cannot believe it. E.

(From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce of Saturday.

Great Failure at Buffalo—The news of the failure of Benjamin Rathbun, at Buffalo, which was received this morning, caused a very unusual sensation in Wall street. His affairs have for months past been the subject of much speculation, and his notes endorsed by some ten or twelve of the best names in the city have been crowded upon the market at the enormous discount of three or four per cent a month. They have served for the quotations of some of our neighbors in giving the condition of the money market. The credit of everybody in Buffalo of course became deeply implicated, and it was said repeatedly that, if 'Rathbun failed all Buffalo must fail.'

Mr. Rathbun's business was enormously extended In addition to large operations in real estate, in which he was constantly engaged he was a contractor for erecting the great hotel, and many other buildings. In this line he had shops and establishments of his own for making bricks, and furnishing and working all sorts of materials for building. He had no less than four stores kept in his own name, three of which were one hundred and fifty feet deep, filled with valuable merchandize. He owned the line of stages from Buffalo to Batavia, and in fact almost all the lines running out of that city; and for this and other purposes, owned six hundred horses. He employed twenty-eight clerks, and two thousand other persons in the various departments of his operations. His skill and enterprize, sustained by large number of well known fortunate speculations, gave him reputation for talents and wealth by which, until now, he has been able to carry on these diversified and almost limitless operations. But he has failed at last. From statements which are as good as can be had in such a case, we are led to hope that the consequences will not be run on so broad a scale as had been anticipated, if indeed there is any ruin at all. At any rate it does not appear that the citizens of Buffalo are likely to loose to any considerable extent. Mr. Rathbun, we understand, represented the whole amount of his debts at a million and a half of dollars, & on more than a million of his paper he acknowledged that he had forged the names of rich neighbors. On a particular occasion he procured L. F. Allen and eleven others to endorse three of his notes for 5000 dollars each. The transaction was generally known in Buffalo. These notes with the endorsements thereon, he multiplied at his pleasure, and the forgeries passed unsuspected, as whenever a forged note was offered, it was taken for one of the well known and genuine notes. This forged paper was sold in Wall street, in Canada, and wherever a market could be found for it.

To pay the million and a half of responsibilities, Mr. Rathbun exhibits a list of property which he has conveyed to assignees, valued at two millions and a half. Other persons value the list at two millions, or something under. If these statements are near the truth, it is to be hoped that the affair will not in the end prove seriously injurious to any one.—Rathbun and a brother who is charged with having executed the forgeries, have fled to Canada.

The assignees of the defaulter are Messrs. Hiram Pratt, Lewis F. Allen, Joseph Clary, Thomas C. Love, and Millard Fillmore.—The have published a notice of their acceptance of the trust, and say that as soon as arrangements can be made for paying the first or preferred class of creditors, public notice will be given of the time and place for presenting their demands.'

THE BOSTON NEGRO CASE.

From the Atlas.

THE RESCUE OF THE SLAVES.

The outrage committed by the blacks on Monday in the forcible rescue of two female prisoners from a court of justice has excited but one feeling of reprobation and indignatian among our citizens. We learn that the prisoners, after having been hurried into a carriage were driven rapidly over the millidam to Meedham, where they took the rail road cars for Worcester. A gentleman informs us that he saw a party of blacks in the cars for Worcester, at Framingham, apparently in a high state of excitement; but he was, of course, ignorant of the transaction which had transpired in town. They have not been overtaken The question will naturally be asked how it was possible that such an outrage could be committed with impunity in open daylight;—but when it is considered that the court room was crowded chiefly with blacks, and that the plan for the rescue was preconcerted, and all arrangements aptly made, it will no longer be a matter of wonder. The Court and the Sheriff were taken by surprise, and all attempts to resist the impetuosity of the sable mob were ineffectual.—The doors were blocked up & the egress of the officers of justice was for a long while forcibly prevented.—Mounted men were as speedily as possible sent in pursuit; but they did not succeed in tracing the prisoners.

The following additional particulars are stated by the Boston Morning Post:

After the shock occasioned by this high handed outrage had in some degree subsided, Judge Shaw expressly stated he had passed no order for the discharge of the slaves, but was going into an explanation of the power of the agent, and the legal course for him to pursue, when the rescue was effected, and interrupted him. The sheriff was sent for, apprised of the rescue, and Judge Shaw said to him—'Mr. Sheriff, the persons were in your custody, and, as I have passed no order for their discharge, you must be looked to for them.'

A person who was standing by when Mr. Sewell came into court, tells us that sheriff Sumner took him by the hand and said to him—'I wish you success in your cause, sir.'

After the Judge left the court, several of the abolitionists gathered around Mr. Turner, who avowed himself a member of the Colonization Society, and grossly insulted him. Two ladies—a Mrs. H. G. Chapman, and a Mrs. Southwick, assailed him with great warmth. One of them told him he 'was a rascally slave holder and ought to be killed.' A young light haired lad annoyed him extremely by his insolence. A dark complexioned young man, in spectacles, was also very impertinent to him.

The following dialogue passed between Messrs. Sewell and Fisk:

Mr. Fisk—I'm pretty sure I heard you tell the woman to clear out.

Mr. Sewell—I went to them and told them they were at liberty, and to clear out, or that RASCAL would be after them.

Mr. Fisk—Don't call the gentleman the *rascal*.

Mr. Sewell—I call any man a rascal who will attempt to take a slave.

Mr. Huggerford, at the head of some officers and a dozen respectable gentlemen who volunteered their services, went in swift pursuit of the fugitives, as soon as vehicles could be procured. At the last accounts they were half a mile in the rear of them.

The Boston Advocate alone of all the Journals, palliates the case. The Advocate was the former Antimasonic newspaper, but is now in favor of Mr. Van Buren.

(From the New York Commercial Advertiser.)

THE BOSTON SLAVE AFFAIR.

As we have copied from the Boston papers, articles relating to this outrage, in which imputations of a serious nature are cast upon the sheriff, and Mr. Sewall, the counsel for the negroes it is but just that we give also the substance of their vindication, as we find it in the Boston papers of yesterday, furnished by themselves.

Mr. Summer, the sheriff, says that the writ of habeas corpus was not delivered to, or served by him, but by a deputy, that it was issued out of term time, by a single judge of the court, before whom it was, of course, returnable; that his (the sheriff's) post of duty on the day when the writ was returnable, was in another court, where he was in attendance at the time of the rescue, and that the first intelligence he had of it was after it had been effected. A portion of Mr. Summer's vindication we give in his own words.

'To answer, then, more distinctly the imputations that have been cast upon me—I was not present before chief justice Shaw, because neither custom nor my duty, nor the requirement of the chief justice called me there, and because my duty called me elsewhere. I did not provide a strong force in anticipation of the outrage, because no foresight of mine enabled me to anticipate such an occurrence, and because the parties were not in my custody, but in the custody of an officer invested by law with all the powers over the matter, which are possessed by me.

Mr. Sewall's statement we copy verbatim.

After Chief Justice Shaw had concluded his opinion, and declared that the women must be discharged, I went to them and told them that they were discharged. I did not know, nor perhaps did most of the persons present know, that any farther order was to be expected from the judge for the prisoners' full discharge. My object in making the communication to the women was, (I have no wish to conceal it,) to get them to leave the court house before they could be seized by Turner either with or without a warrant; but nothing could be farther from my thoughts than to recommend them to go out before they were legally discharged, or to induce others to conduct them from the room in defiance of the judge and the officers. As to my beckoning to the negroes in the rear to come forward, the charge is totally false. I ought, perhaps, to add, in reference to charges and insinuations which have been made against my conduct on Monday, that I did nothing in any way to excite or encourage the disturbance in the court room, which was entirely unexpected to me, and that no one can regret its occurrence more than I do.

S. E. SEWALL.

State-street, August 3, 1836.

THE INDIAN WAR.

We have received a slip from our correspondent of the Georgian Office, Savannah, which contains the following account of

ANOTHER BATTLE.

A Brilliant and Gallant Action.—Yesterday afternoon an express arrived in town with intelligence that a battle had taken place in the morning at 6 o'clock, at Ridgeley's Mill, near the mouth of Black Creek, between a detachment of United States troops, 15 in number, under command of Lt. Herbert, and a party of 36 Indians.

Lieut. Herbert left here on Wednesday last, to escort 40 fed horses to Garey's Ferry, and reached that place in safety the next day. He was on his return in the steamboat Essayons to Picolata. When the boat arrived opposite the Mill, he landed in a small boat with nine of his men, with a view of going to Mr. Travers' plantation, whose house had been burned the day previous, and making an examination.—On landing he discovered fresh mocasin tracks, and took up the pursuit. He soon fell in with a party of fifteen or twenty Indians, whom he immediately attacked. He was joined by the remainder of his command as speedily as possible, and at the same time the enemy were reinforced by about 25 more warriors.

The Indians made two attempts to turn the flank of Lt. Herbert, but were gallantly beaten back, and after a warm action which lasted an hour and twenty minutes the enemy were driven into a hammock, from which they did not show themselves until the detachment had retired on board the steamboat, and was under way, when they came to the river bank and fired upon the boat. After driving them into the hammock, and the ammunition being nearly exhausted, Lieut. Herbert, from the superior force and position of the enemy, did not think it prudent to follow them. Five of his men were wounded—none of them dangerously. It is though that six of the enemy were killed and wounded, as they were seen to fall, and a negro who acted as guide, and who understood the Indian tongue, said he heard them repeatedly call during the action, for men to carry off their wounded.

This is one of the most brilliant affairs that has occurred during the war and we hope that the current of disasters with which we had to contend hitherto, is about to turn, and successes follow in the place of misfortune.

Col. Crane of the Army, commanding the regular troops in East Florida, upon receiving the intelligence here, ordered Capt. Cummet's company of Mounted Volunteers, and Lt. Irwin's company of mounted U. S. troops, to Picolata, where they probably crossed the St. Johns' last night; and it is hoped they will be able to fall in with this band of Indians, who, it is supposed have been lurking in the vicinity of Black Creek, for some days.

We have just learned that the companies reached Picolata, and finished crossing the river at 8 o'clock this morning, Lt. Herbert's detachment have just arrived with their wounded.—*St. Augustine Herald 30th ult.*

Extract from the Log book of the U. S Steamboat Essayons, Peck, Master.

"July 29.—This morning came to anchor at Ridgely's mill, having Lt. Herbert and 14 men, which we were conveying from Garey's ferry to Picolata—concluded to land, when Lieut. H. took men in the first boat and went on shore, and the boat retuned for the balance of the men, when the Indians commenced a fire upon those on shore which was returned. As soon as all the men landed they took their posts, and a constant fire was kept up by both sides for one hour and twenty minutes. The Indians were in the edge of a thick hammock about 60 yards west of the mill, and after half an hour they occasionally fired upon the steamboat which was returned by the officers and crew of the boat. The small boat was called for by Lt. H. and in going on shore several shot were fired upon her, but without injury to any one in the boat. After one hour and twenty minutes, Lt. H. made another signal for the small boat to retreat to the steamboat, as his men were getting short of ammunition; the steamboat at this time was within 30 yards of the wharf at the mill.

The retreat was made, and as soon as the Indians found that our men were leaving they rushed out from the hammock and fired a volley at the small boat and steamboat, shooting two balls through the yawl and wounding three men on board the steamboat, one of whom was also wounded on shore with two other. A general fire was now opened from the steamboat on them, which they returned like good fellows, throwing their balls in showers on board and around us. There could not have been less than forty. The men under Lieut. H. behaved well, every man keeping his post, even to one who was wounded in the arm not giving way, Lieut. H. was going to and fro in the open space during the whole of the action. Our men being so badly wounded and suffering with pain, we determined to run for Picolata, where we arrived at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Before we had got a mile from the mill they began to fire the buildings, and at half past 12, on my return going up to Garey's Ferry, Black Creek, all the buildings at the mill were burnt down—at half past 3 o'clock we arrived, and a company under the command of Capt. Childs, consisting of 69 men were put on board the steamboat & landed at the mill at dusk. None of the officers or crew of the steamboat were hurt, and there must have been several killed and wounded of the Indians, as our men had their muskets charged with buck shot and not over sixty yards distant. The steamboat had nineteen balls through her bulwarks and side houses, and one passed through the wheel house severely wounding a man in the leg.—Five men in all were wounded."

In a recently published work, entitled "*Courtship and Marriage*," by the *Rev.* J. M. Davis, the question of what constitutes a promise of marriage is thus treated. We copy it for the sake of the interest which naturally attaches to this subject in the estimation of that numerous class embraced under the head of wooers and wooed:

"*What constitutes a Betrothment.*—The most interesting and decisive period in the history of courtship remains to be considered. We have endeavored to conduct the inquirer after truth along, from one step to another, till we have brought him to that point, when he is prompted, not only by his affections, but by a regard for his own character and the character of his friend, to make those declarations of attachments and love, which, if reciprocated, shall prepare the way for the assumption of obligations the most binding and solemn.—What then is the nature of a bethrothment? And what are the circumstances which will render it null and void?

1. I remark that a matrimonial engagement does not consist in any of the civilities and courtesies of life, which a gentleman may extend to a lady.

It is not unfrequently the case, however, that these are mistaken for declarations of love, and the announcement is made at once, that such persons are engaged. Such is the imprudence of friends often, and more frequently of the lady herself, that the common politeness and attention, which are ever due between the sexes, are construed into proposals for matrimony, and a young gentleman hears the report of his engagement, while as yet not even a dream of the thing has passed through his own mind. By such imprudence, the lady severs herself from the society, perhaps, of an honorable and polished mind, and brings upon herself and friends the mortification and disappointment which will inevitably follow in such cases. If a gentleman attend a lady to church; if he escort her to the public assembly; if he walk with her in the street; if he occasionally visit her for the sake of her good society, the report is not unfrequently set on foot, by some mischief maker or indiscreet friend, that the parties are engaged to be married.

2. Neither does an engagement consist in any politeness or social intercourse, which a lady may extend to a gentleman.

There are young gentlemen, however, of such consummate vanity, as to suppose that such treatment is nothing less than the strongest intimation of personal attachment. If a lady so much as look at them, they fancy that it must be a love affair, and equivalent to the most direct proposals for matrimony. A smile, a compliment, a social interview, a walk or ride of pleasure, is set down by such conceited coxcombs, as the most unequivocal declaration of love. They tell of the conquests they have made, with an air of triumph, and never know their mistake till they learn it in that reserve and neglect which their conduct so richly deserves.

3. Neither does an engagement consist in any of these preliminary steps, which are so important, in order to a just estimate of the character and qualifications of the person with whom you would be united for life.

Many persons, however, imagine that every such step is a step of committal. While the individual is only forming that wise estimate, and making those judicious investigations, which every one is bound to make in this affair, by a regard to his own happiness and that of others—he is considered as fairly committed, without the possibility of honorable retreat. But this is all wrong, whether it be the sentiment of individuals or public sentiment. The very object of his researches is to ascertain is the character & qualifications of the person, are such as will make him a happy companion for life. Without such investigation he might as well commit his interest, in this manner, to a lady whom he had never beheld. He might as well be betrothed as heathen children by their parents, without his consent or knowledge, and while yet in a state of infancy. He might as well blindfold himself, and rush into a great assembly, and select a companion at random Parents must suppose their daughters are little less than angels, if they expect to betroth them in this manner.—And if young ladies are so superficial in character and accomplishments, as not to admit of such honorable and wise scrutiny, they had better give up the idea of marriage life, and become nuns at once. Such should be the sentiments on this subject; that very young gentleman should feel himself at liberty to make every necessary investigation of character, without subjecting himself to the report of being engaged, or of other than honorable intentions, if disappointed he sees fit to retire.

4. Neither does an engagement consist in the most unqualified declaration of love on the part of either the gentleman or lady.—This

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