

AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

The Fourteenth Anniversary of this Society was held yesterday morning at the Tabernacle. An unusually large delegation of the friends of the Society was present, and the house was well filled before the arrival of the hour for meeting.

William Lloyd Garrison called the meeting to order at 10 o'clock, with the remark that, by God's help, the Society would utter such testimony on this all-engrossing subject as would cause every slave to leap in his chains, and make every tyrant tremble with despair.

Prayer was offered by Theodore Parker, and pertinent selections from the Scriptures were read by Samuel J. May, of Syracuse. The Treasurer's report was read by Francis Jackson, showing that the Society had received and expended about \$9,000 during the year.

Suspended to the six columns which support the dome was the celebrated address of the 40,000 women of Scotland to the women of the United States, being many rods in length, and presenting an imposing sight.

Rev. Theodore Parker then addressed the meeting in a speech of some length, on the general question, which was characterized more by profound and earnest thoughts and beautiful imagery than by its declamatory power. It sometimes happens, he said, that man contains in his bosom one cherished sin, sometimes resolving to cast it out and to pursue an ideal virtue, and sometimes inclined to follow it; and although not generally known in consequence of this sin, he becomes less and less respectable. If he decides in favor of the ideal virtue, he comes into unity with himself and with his God. The United States presented an illustration of this kind. Slavery was a great contradiction to the declaration of our fathers, and the genius of the Government which they sought to set up.

It is in contradiction to that law which requires us to love our brothers as ourselves. Slavery is not the only sin of the country, but is the greater only because others are less. It draws to itself the attention of men of genius, who are the eyes of the country, and who might otherwise be engaged in building up positive virtue. When our house is on fire, we do not stop to extinguish the flames from a handful of shingles. The anti-slavery power in this country is so great that it will not let slavery rest; it will constantly agitate the question, and this keeps the nation at war with itself. There is no unity of feeling and action.

Slavery is spreading wider, but not deeper. So long as it exists, the Union is in danger. It is the most awful crime that is tolerated.

The signs of the times were in their favor. In the European world, they were all on their side; when down-trodden millions there rise and obtain their freedom, will millions here be permitted to remain in bondage? The recent capture of the seventy-seven slaves in the District of Columbia, and their noble-hearted friends, would bring up the question whether slavery exists in that District. He rejoiced that they had made the attempt; and though he was not unmindful of the increased suffering to which many of them would be subjected, he also rejoiced that they were retaken, and that the Chaplain of the Senate, a representative of the Church, went into the cars as they were about to take their last farewell of their homes for the South, and fraternized with the slave-buyer. It was frank and honest, and was an exhibition of the state of the times in which we live; these slaves would draw the attention and sympathy of the nation after them in their lonely pilgrimage to the South. He was glad that one of these slaves belonged to a President. We had thus the representative of the Nation as well as the Church pledged to slavery.

The signs of the times favor us. There is a dawning in the East that covers us. The young Hercules is rising in his cradle, and is crushing the serpent that comes to destroy him. This is an ancient symbol of force. But there is also another symbol of a young man who crushes not the serpent, but stands calm, with arms folded, serenely, with the serpent beneath his feet. That was the symbol of the infant Saviour—the symbol of moral power, which is sure to put the serpent under his feet without force, by the law of love.

Lucretia Mott next addressed the meeting in a speech of chastened earnestness. She was followed by Wendell Phillips, upon a resolution which was received by mingled hisses and applause. The resolution affirmed, in substance, that the only exodus of the slave out of bondage must be over the ruins of the present Church and Constitution.

Frederick Douglass made a concluding address, which was listened to with great attention throughout, and was often interrupted by strong demonstrations of applause.

The American Anti-Slavery Society, at the Minerva Rooms yesterday afternoon, were occupied mainly in the discussion of a series of resolutions, introduced by H. C. Wright, relating to the attempt of the 77 slaves to escape from the District of Columbia.

The first expressed the cordial sympathy of the Society with the unhappy slaves, in their effort to regain their freedom in this peaceful manner; the second applauding the generous act of Captain Sayres and his crew; and the third proposing to appoint a committee of five, to draw up an address to the entire slave population, to awaken in them the spirit of freedom, and to induce them to escape to the free States.

The Society were united on the principles of the first resolutions, but disagreed as to the propriety of the proposed address, on the ground of expediency. The resolution was laid over till this morning.