THE LARK IN THE CAGE.

In the dusty, smoky city,
Hung a lark against a wall,
Warbling out a cheerful ditty,
Heedless of his cage's thrall.

"Lark!" exclaimed a charming sparrow,
Lighting on a window-sill,
"Prisoned in a space so narrow,
Canst thou sing so blithely still?"

Said the lark, in accents ringing;
"Sparrow, I would have you know,
That a lark in bonoage, singing,
Half forgets its weary woe.

"Sang I not, too, here in prison,
Were I to escape some day,
In the sky when I had risen,
Should I recollect my lay?"

Soul, confined in shell external,
Art thou not a radiant spark
From the spirit light supernal,
Prisoned like the tuneful lark?

Let thy spirit song, to cheer thee
In captivity, arise,
Unforgot, till angels hear thee
Chant it far above the skies.

[Communicated.]

Mr. Editor: I read with pleasure the article of an old-line whig, now acting with the democracy, in your last issue. It was to the point. If there are any delegates from this county to the Easton or Baltimore convention, who endorse the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, they should resign at once, and not misrepresent the notorious sentiments of the democracy of this county, of the State, and the principles of the democratic State platform as laid down and authoritatively expressed by the resolutions of the last democratic State convention at Frederick, July 2, 1859. It was then and there resolved and unanimously adopted

"That the democratic party always maintained these measures distinctly, and recognize the right of the people of the territories *where* they live to form themselves into States, *then* to determine the question of slavery for themselves and to be admitted into the Union with or without slavery, as they shall then so determine, and that in the mean time under the Constitution of the United States, and as expounded by the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case, *the rights of all the people in all the States to their property in the territories, live inviolable, and cannot be impaired by legislation either directly or indirectly.*"

This resolution is in conformity with the principles of the Cincinnati platform relating to domestic slavery in the territories, and with the general sentiment of the democratic party. It is expressive of the unanimous sentiment of the democracy of the Southern States. The democracy of several of the Northern States also hold the same doctrine; with some, however, Mr. Douglas' squatter-sovereignty heresy has caused a division of sentiment. Mr. Douglas holds and declares that he will not surrender his individual opinion to the action of the Charleston convention, that the people of the Territories *before* they assemble in convention to frame a *Constitution* can prohibit domestic slavery by the action of a territorial legislature. He also repudiates the Dred Scott decision as acknowledged by the aforegoing resolution of the Maryland democracy, and sanctioned by the democracy of the country generally. His views, if practically enforced, would effectually exclude the South from any participation in and enjoyment of the common territory of the United States; and his nomination by Southern votes would work the eternal ruin of the Southern democracy. It was truthfully remarked recently, in the Senate, by Senator Fitch, that

"If the South nominate the Senator alluded to (Mr. Douglas) with his present views, the entire North will deem the act an expression of willingness upon their part that his views shall become the future settled policy of the Government; the united North will act upon that policy, carry it out to the full, and no aid must be expected by the South from any portion of the North in any effort they may thereafter make to prevent the progress of that policy to the end. When by such act it establishes his policy, the South and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Douglas) will have done more to accomplish the favorite and avowed scheme of the republican party than any effort of that party could have done—the scheme of surrounding the Southern States with free territory, and starving out their institution; for under that policy, organize a Territory where you may, whether it be in Dakota of the North, or Arizona of the South, the bold, adventurous, non-slaveholding frontiersmen of the West, whose moveables include no luxuries, whose necessaries are readily supplied by the axe and the rifle, will go into the Territory, possess themselves of its legislature, and exclude Southern property, while the owners of that property are packing up their household goods and preparing their chattles for removal."

With this fact staring us in the face, how can any man of the Dorchester delegation to the Easton or Baltimore convention, if true to the constitutional rights of the South and the democracy of Maryland, vote for any delegate to the Charleston convention who in any wise sympathises with Mr. Douglas or his patented squatter-territorial policy?—Mr. Douglas has attempted to dictate to the National Democracy of the country what platform should be adopted at Charleston before the assembling of the convention; and has informed the public, through his correspondence with a notorious abolition scoundrel, that he will not accept the nomination if he is not allowed to besmear that platform with his free-soil nostrum. With respect to his position, Senator Fitch forcibly remarked in the same debate:

"The man who will not conform his acts to the law, the Constitution and the decisions of the courts, has within him the raw material of a John Brown, only awaiting circumstances for its developement. The man who will not, especiallly as an officer, rise superior to his own or the mean prejudices of those around him, is in danger of becoming a fanatic, or the abettor of fanatics, and can find his only proper political affiliation on the other (republican) side of this chamber. Whatever the party represented by the Senators on that side may be, I cannot believe the great democratic party is yet the property of one man, to have terms and principles dictated to it—to be authoratively told to place one construction on the same law and the same constitutional provision to-day and a different one to-morrow. The party expects its nominees, if elected, to carry out its principles and to conform their acts to its wishes. I cannot believe that it is so degraded as to get down upon bended knee and ask any man upon what conditions he will accept a nomination—what declaration of principles it must make to secure his support. I cannot believe that it is yet prepared to lend continued support to any one who may be found using whatever of power it has placed in his hands to the manufacture of political issues for the purpose of bending these issues to his own aggrandizement. I cannot believe that it is yet prepared to long permit any man to claim that he is its sole personification—that his hat, when he places it upon his head, covers its entire brain, or his waistcoast warms its heart.—The man who will assert his own opinions as the sole rule of action for himself and for others, whatever the courts have decided, or may decide, to the contrary, surely cannot be a safe depository of executive power. Such a man, if a sheriff, would refuse to execute a decree of the court, if, in his judgment, it was erroneous. Such a man, if Governor of a State or Territory, would arm its citizens against a decision of a court, or a law of Congress, if in his judgment that law or that decision was unconstitutional. Such a man, if President, would permit a decree of the court or a law of Congress to be successfully resisted, if in his judgment court or Congress had exceeded its power."

In view of Mr. Douglas' position before the country, we reiterate the assertion, that if any of the Dorchester delegates endorse or sympathise with that position, or intend voting for any delegate to the Charleston convention who does, they should forthwith resign, and permit others to be appointed who do not.

March 12th.

Is Religion Beautiful?

Always! In the child, the maiden, the wife, the mother, religion shines with a holy benignant beauty of its own, which nothing on earth can mar. Never yet was female character perfect without the steady faith of piety. Beauty, intellect, wealth! they are all like pitfalls, dark in the brightest day, unless religion throws her soft beams around them to purify and exalt, making twice glorious that which seemed all loveliness before.

Religion is very beautiful, in health or sickness, in wealth or poverty.—We can never enter the sick chamber of the good but soft music seems to float on the air, and the burden of their song is, "Lo, peace is here."

Could we look into the thousands of families to-day where discontent fights sullenly with life, we should find the chief cause of unhappiness want of religion in women. O, religion! benignant majesty! high on thy throne thou sittest, glorious and exalted.

Is religion beautiful? We answer, all is desolation and deformity where religion is not.

Cambridge Democrat.

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[From the Author's Preface.]

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I hope my friends will respond promptly and demonstrate that "a friend in need is a friend *in deed.*" THOMAS W. ANDERSON.
feb10 1858. Cambridge, Md

☞CARDS neatly printed at this office.

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